Defense wants GMA to testify for Ampatuans

By Niko Morales

LAWYERS OF the principal suspect in the infamous Maguindanao massacre want ex-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to testify in court in his defense.

Apart from Arroyo, now the representative of Pampanga's second district, lawyers of Andal Ampatuan Jr. are also considering as defense witnesses Raul Gonzalez and Jesus Dureza, her former justice secretary and adviser on Mindanao affairs, respectively.

"That's based on the list [that the de-

BEYOND A6

WORLD / A21

65th year of atomic bombing of Hiroshima marked

NEWS / A2

8 foreign trips lined up for Noy but he wants to attend only 2

NEWS / A4

Speaker Belmonte clueless about Rep. Ecleo case

NEWS / A2

Tesda owes training schools P1B

NEWS / A5

File charges, De Lima dares Dumlao

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, August 7, 2010 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 248 P18

COA list: Highest paid government officials in 2009

Name of Officer	Median Level	Amount
1. Arroyo, Arsenio B.	SUBAC	26,865,000.00
2. Rivaherl, Benigno	CSC	14,590,466.74
3. Garcia, Orlando P.	CBP	12,218,042.83
4. Lacanglo, Armando Jr.	BSP	10,275,000.14
5. Mendez, Benedicto	CBP	9,999,042.75
Edwards Jr. R.		
6. Geronimo, Rolando	CBP	8,000,000.12
7. Moya, Ramon I.	BCDA	7,934,500.14
8. Tengco, Horacio T.	SSS	7,873,688.83
9. Garcia, Armando C.	CBP	5,883,000.14
10. Guerrero, Ma. Theresa	CBP	5,783,138.41
11. Pano, Noel III B.	BCDA	5,210,705.48
12. Guevarra, Jesus II	CBP	5,672,566.43
13. Bendoy, Armando L.	BSP	5,529,387.73
14. Mabilo, Wilfredo C.	LBP	5,473,755.94
15. Garcelada, Andres C.	LBP	5,400,007.88
16. Garcia, Oscar D.	MWSS-CO	5,401,391.23
17. Tiaoqui, Rodolfo	CBP	5,218,215.00
18. Abalos, Diosdado Jose III	MWSS-CO	5,069,239.19
19. Gutierrez, Constancio R.	LBP	4,817,218.88
20. Buenaventura, Diana C.	BSP	4,805,138.21
21. Guevarra, Simeona S.	LBP	4,845,709.21
22. Rosa, Miguel	SSS	4,840,359.67
23. Hotari, Ronilo H.	LBP	4,801,142.41
24. Tripoli, Nestor Jr. A.	BSP	4,761,694.16

COA LIST/ A6

Subic, Clark execs highest paid gov't men

By Leila B. Salaverria

IT'S NOT ONLY the officers of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) who are enjoying sky-high perks and bonuses from the government.

In 2009, the government officials who received the most in salaries, allowances and "extraordinary and miscellaneous fees" came from—besides the MWSS—the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), the Clark Development Corp. (CDC), the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), Social Security System (SSS), and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP). (See list on this page).

This was according to the Commission on Audit's report on the salaries and allowances received by principal officers and members of governing boards of government-

SUBIC/ A6

ARREZA

RICAFORT

Luisita agreement signed

Deal needs SC okay; President hands off

By Jo Martinez-Clemente, Inquirer Central Luzon
Philip C. Tubeza and Kristine L. Alave

HACIENDA LUISITA, Tarlac—A compromise agreement seeking to end the 20-year-old dispute between the owners and farm workers of Hacienda Luisita was signed here yesterday before an assembly of 800 people.

A major feature of the deal is a provision that will allow the farmers who are land reform beneficiaries to choose between owning shares of stock in the corporation or taking possession of a piece of hacienda land. (See details of agreement on Page A6.)

Fernando Cojuangco, chief operating officer of the Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI), told the assembly that the agreement will give Luisita stakeholders a fresh start.

The compromise deal was hammered out between Cojuangco and Vigor Mendiola, LUISITA/ A6

TWO OPTIONS Hacienda Luisita farmers line up to get clearance—if they are qualified farmer beneficiaries—before voting at the clubhouse of Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac. They were given two options: Choose between owning shares of stock in the corporation or taking possession of a piece of hacienda land. The farmers will be holding a referendum this weekend. Inset, map of Hacienda Luisita.

Suicide bombing ruled out

By Julie Alipala and Joaffrey Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The explosion outside the arrival area of the international airport here early Thursday night was not a suicide bomb attack, police authorities said yesterday.

The explosion, which killed two people and wounded 24 others, including Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan and a Briton who is a longtime Zamboanga resident, had prompted US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. to cancel his scheduled trip to

BLASTS/ A6

'Cojuangcos don't want to let go of the land'

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S A WORLD turned upside down.

This was how lawyer Christian Monsod, a member of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution, reacted to the reported compromise deal that was reached between the farm workers and management of Hacienda Luisita, the 6,800-hectare sugar plantation in Central Luzon owned by the Cojuangco family of President Aquino.

"The bottom line is that the Cojuangcos do not want to let go of the land," said Monsod, who was himself helping to broker a deal between Hacienda Luisita Inc. and the farmers, with the backing of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

The deal runs counter to the "letter and spirit" of the 1987 Constitution which dictates that agrarian reform lands should go to the farmers while landowners get just compensation in return, according to Monsod.

"Now, it's a world turned upside down with the landowners getting the land and farmers getting the compensation. If you have economic and political power concentrated, you can turn the world on its head," he said.

COJUANGCOS/ A6

Luistro: It's go for 12-yr basic ed plan

By Regina Aguilar
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Despite the opposition from various sectors, the Department of Education (DepEd) will soon implement an enhanced 12-year basic education program, which consists of seven years in the elementary

LUISTRO/ A11

P-Noy on Pangarap: This is now my prison

By Norman Bordadora

FOR THE FIRST TIME, President Aquino spent the night on Thursday at the newly refurbished Bahay Pangarap (House of Dreams).

The bachelor President yesterday told reporters that if he had his way, he'd continue to go home to his own residence on Times

P-NOY/ A15

Stormy weather: Pagasa chief sacked

By Norman Bordadora

THE WAS one storm Prisco Nilo may not have seen coming—again.

President Aquino yesterday announced he had sacked Nilo as administrator of Pagasa, saying the state agency charged with tracking storms and typhoons was "way off the mark"

in its forecast of the path of killer Typhoon "Basyang."

Predicted to hit northern Luzon, Basyang instead pummeled Metro Manila and provinces at around midnight of July 13, killing 104 people and causing massive power outages in the capital and nearby provinces.

STORMY/ A13

Lights out: Meralco rates rising this month

By Amy R. Roxas

CUSTOMERS of power distributor Manila Electric Co. should brace for higher bills, after the cost of electricity it purchases from power firms increased this month.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Meralco explained that its generation charge rose by 46 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to P6.9962 per kWh, driven mainly by higher prices at the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said in a briefing yesterday that he has already asked the operator of WESM, the Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), to provide the government details as to why the price of power being traded had again shot up.

The energy chief admitted, however, that under the current legal structure, consumers have no choice but to bear with the increase pending the review of PEMC's trading rambles.

For lifeline residential customers or those consuming 100 kWh or less, their electricity

LIGHTS OUT/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49 LOTTO
27 21 9 11 11 27
4PCSO 2D
6 1 6 8 1 2
4PCSO 3D
2 5 3 3 1 9 1
MEGA LOTTO 6/45
5 8 24 36 40 41
P58,020,470.20

Tesda hounded by debts

By Tarra Quismundo and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

THE WELL had already gone dry but still the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) promised to provide P1 billion worth of technical and vocational scholarships to the unemployed across the country, burdening the agency with debts under a new President.

What's more, newly appointed Tesda Director General Joel Villanueva said he had also received numerous reports that the fledgling Gloria Scholarship (PDF) went to fly-by-night schools and ghost scholars.

"This is not our obligation," Villanueva told the Inquirer over the phone. "In this first place, it's not part of the budget allocated for us. It's not even appropriated in the General Appropriations Act."

Villanueva disclosed that the P1-billion (subsidy) allocation was on top of some P6.6 billion in scholarship funds already awarded from 2008 to 2009, ostensibly among the top recipients of which were Region 5 and Region 6, the constituencies of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco, former Tesda director general.

Villanueva found out about Tesda's many problems on his first day as Tesda chief on Aug. 4. Among them was P132 million in questionable procurements he readily cancelled, the national bi-legal department to look into the procurements and the scholarship "debts."

VILLANUEVA

He said schools, using influential people as channels, had been asking him for the disbursement as soon as his appointment as Tesda was announced a month ago.

"You could just imagine, the existing schools are actually right now begging me every day asking me, 'Pay me, pay me,'" Villanueva said.

Villanueva's predecessor at Tesda, former Magdalo, Bangsamoro Mayor Pintin Calixo, meanwhile sought to clear his name, saying he never approved any contract in the agency during his first-month stay that ended last last month. He said he only awarded a P300-million contract, but did not provide details.

According to Villanueva, around 5 percent of the unfunded P1 billion were promised to be an aside to backdoor scholarships under a Tesda-Congress co-financing program, wherein the agency would match funds that lawmakers would allot for their constituencies.

The rest went grants supposed to go directly to partner schools and Tesda training centers across the country. Scholarships awarded since 2008 totaled P5.66 billion, funding the education of almost 350,000 recipients.

Villanueva also called attention to numerous but yet uncertified reports that some scholarships went to bogus schools' fists and ill-legitimate schools.

"You have two situations. One, you have a school with funding but they just use their names, ghost scholars. Second, there are schools, they sign for the claim, but the schools cut their allowances. Those are the initial reports we're hearing," Villanueva said.

A financial report of the scholarship program showed that among the top recipients of the grants were the densely populated National Capital Region, Calabarzon (Region 4-A) and Central Luzon, and Western Visayas.

In Iloilo City, the government employee group Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLink) said last week Tesda head and now Iloilo Rep. Syjuco's alleged mismanagement of the agency should be included in the investigations of the Truth Commission, which was created by President Aquino to investigate alleged corruption scandals during the Arroyo administration.

"We welcome the commitment and resolve of Director General Villanueva to investigate the anomalies under Syjuco," PSLink General Secretary Annie Geron told the Inquirer.

Syjuco has repeatedly denied allegations of mismanagement and corruption during his term, saying the charges were the handiwork of his political rivals.

In an earlier interview, he disclaimed the complaints as "ridiculous" and "harassment," claiming that all transactions of the agency and his supporters were screened for

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Party-list reps get juicy House posts

By Michael Lim Ubac

NO LONGER second-class citizens, party-list lawmakers in the 15th Congress will be given committee chairmanships.

In an unprecedented move, Speaker Sonny Belmonte told reporters on Thursday that at least three party-list representatives would head administrative committees in the House of Representatives.

So far, 40 party-list lawmakers had taken their oath of office, but Belmonte expected the number of sectoral representatives to reach 50—the limit set by the Constitution.

The membership of the House of Representatives now stands at 284.

An Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., will head the committee on accounts. Abigail Rep. Rhodante Macalintal will head an unspecified committee, Belmonte announced.

"Normally, all of the third-termers will be given chairmanships," he said.

Sectoral representation was authorized by the Constitution to allow the electorate to vote for certain party-list organizations to give voice to significant marginalized sectors of society that would otherwise not be adequately represented through geographical districts.

A registered voter can vote for a single party-list organization, and party-list groups that garner at least 2 percent of the total number of votes can be awarded one representative (up to a maximum of three seats per group).

The Constitution reserves 20 percent of all seats in the House for sectoral representatives elected in the party-list system.

Belmonte said he hopes to complete the filling up of the chairmanships, vice chairmanships and memberships of all committees next week, so the lower chamber would have a fully functioning committee system as soon as possible.

On committee membership, he said it was still ongoing because "it can involve a lot of people, for example, the committee on appropriations can involve as many as 50."

During the representatives, would be allowed to join committees, he added.

First under Noynoy: RP to get ₱20-B aid from US

By Jovanie Aning

THE UNITED STATES is set to raise into a compact with the Philippines granting the Aquino government $434 million (P20 billion) in aid, the US Embassy said yesterday.

This is the first foreign assistance program granted by the United States during President Aquino's term.

"This marks a vote of confidence in the Aquino administration and its commitment to combat corruption," US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. said in a statement.

The Philippines was judged to be eligible for an MCC aid compact in March 2008. The aid compact, to be coursed through the Washington, DC-based Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), would provide funding for three major projects amounting to $360.7 million. They are:

* $54.3 million for the redesign and construction of key business processes within the Department of Finance's Bureau of Internal Revenue to increase the efficiency, sustainability and integrity of revenue collection.

* $120 million for the expansion of Expanded Partnership with Kalahaan Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (ExCIDSS), a community-based rural development program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development that focuses on small-scale infrastructure and other services that would stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty.

* $214.4 million for the construction and rehabilitation of the 220-kilometer Subic-Tarlac-Clark-Manila expressway.

* The remainder ($45.1 million) would be used for other projects.

Thomas lauded MCC's pledge, saying: "Today's decision by the MCC Board of Directors, chaired by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, marks a vote of confidence in the Aquino administration and its commitment to combat corruption. The MCC grant will support President Aquino's efforts to reduce poverty, stimulate economic growth, combat corruption, and ensure citizens have free and fair elections."

In a separate statement, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo said: "This is excellent news—an affirmation of the US government's confidence in the Philippines' strong economic and policy performance."

Romulo added that the Philippine government had consistently demonstrated the highest level of political commitment to the MCC Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) compact process.

In a letter to US President Barack Obama on July 8, Aquino renewed his commitment to MCC's principles of ruling justly, investing in people and promoting economic freedom.

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Foreign trips for Noynoy

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday said eight foreign trips have been lined up for him before the end of the year but he added that he intends to attend just two or three of these official travels.

Mr. Aquino said a priority for him is the one in the Dominican Republic in the US and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Vietnam.

Another option for him is the Asia-Europe Meeting in Brussels.

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NOT TOO SICK FOR CONGRESS?

Belmonte at a loss over Ecleo case

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUDDEN appearance of cult leader-turned Dinagat Island Rep. Ruben Ecleo Jr. at the halls of Congress despite a pending particide case has mystified Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

"You know, I don't know about the case of Ruben. I only knew about it yesterday—I heard it from one of the congressmen," Belmonte confided to reporters on Thursday.

Belmonte said he would ask about the real status of the lawmaker after being prompted by an Inquirer report that Ecleo was allowed to post bail because of a supposed severe heart ailment.

"We, we have to find out exactly what is his status," Belmonte said.

Ecleo was in the 4th-year incarceration period of Dinagat Island while standing trial for patricide, a non-bailable crime, for allegedly killing his own wife, Alma, in Mandaue City, Cebu, in 2003.

Alma's body was found in a ravine in Dalaguete, a southern town of Cebu, stuffed inside a garbage bag.

Ecleo is the leader of the controversial Philippine Benevolent Missionary Association founded by his father, Rudoveo Sr.

The Speaker said he believed that Ecleo should not get salary and all, however "if you cannot serve."

"No, he can't collect salary if (he) cannot serve. Of course, you are receiving a salary for rendering service," said Belmonte.

Belmonte said Ecleo was facing "an ordinary criminal case" filed in Cebu.

"According to newspaper accounts, supposedly he's sick and he has to be operated on, or something. Now, I understand that the court ... are scheduling hearings on this," Belmonte said.

The Speaker noted that Ecleo posted a P1 million for humanitarian considerations.

"But definitely we are going to find out what's the real score," said the Speaker, but surmised that Ecleo could still file bills.

Belmonte was keen on having a land and law rule for other absentee members.

"That's the point really that perhaps, this Congress should address that question," he said, adding that the issue was not just absenteeism but if the absences already amounted "to a complete neglect of (duties)."

Singson's ordeal

Belmonte wanted to be abreast, too, with developments of the drug trafficking case of another problematic member of the House, Ilocos Sur Rep. Ronald Singson.

Belmonte will send an emissary to Hong Kong to monitor the court hearings.

"I'm thinking of sending a representative to go to his hearing in the case in Hong Kong as an observer for the house because that...of course, it is very serious thing. But still, we have to see, we have to go by our rules and the committee's mandate to give everybody due process, so we'll give due process," he said.

The Speaker wanted to make sure that as a member of the chamber, Singson would be getting all the assistance he needed.

"Right now, for instance, we hardly know anything about the case. I get the information from the media, I talked to Gov. Singson, the ladies, but he didn't give any information and I said how can we help, but he didn't ask for any," said Belmonte.

Noynoy voids EO promoting gov't lawyers

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT AQUINO has revoked yet another official act of his predecessor, this time nullifying an executive order that promoted government lawyers to career executive service officer (Career SI).

Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Edmundo de Mesa said Mr. Aquino has signed Executive Order No. 83 issued last May 28.

De Mesa said 107-109 vested lawyers occupying legal positions in the government executive service who have obtained graduate degrees in law and successfully passed the bar examinations with the rank of Category III.

"Now, objections have been raised against this executive order by various parties including those who have worked very hard to obtain their Cesar," De Mesa said.

"Upon review of the Executive Order No. 883, it was determined that it is illegal because it amounts to amendment of existing law without relying on the Career Executive Service Board) the power or prerogative to promulgate rules, standards and procedures on the selection, classification, compensation and career development of members of the Career Executive Service," De Mesa said.

The CESB authority, De Mesa said, was granted by Executive Order No. 292 of the Administrative Code of 1987.

DOST deal nixed

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday said the Department of Science and Technology prevented an alleged anomalous government purchase when it learned a project's requirements were tailor-made to fit just one prospective bidder.

The President said reports that the DOST upon evaluation learned that a specification that will be used by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources would have cost the government P60 million instead of the legitimate cost of just P16 million to P20 million.

The DOST said the project for the "ultrafast liquid chromatograph with multiple mass spectrometer" was locked in to a specific model and no other manufacturer could have qualified with all the items specified in the order.

Bidding for the project approved by the Arroyo administration has been put on hold by the incumbent administration.

DOJ chief won't let Morong 43 detainee separated from baby

By Nikko Dizon

JUSTICE SECRETARY Leila de Lima is preventing medical personnel from taking baby Sarah Mae Catubig away from her mother, Morong 43 detainee Melissa Roxas, amid the latter's opposition to a petition filed by a Morong 43 detainee who asked to be released so she could care for her newborn son.

"I have ordered the prosecutor [State Prosecutor Ramon Jimenez] to withdraw his opposition. Mother and child should not be separated," De Lima told reporters prior to meeting with the lawyer and families of the Morong 43 detainees at the Department of Justice (DOJ) in Manila.

Accused Judilee Guerrero, who gave birth to a son last July 22 at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), took another and child remain confined at the hospital.

A week after giving birth, Guerrero asked her lawyer to file a motion for release on humanitarian reasons because the Morong 43 group is confined at the Camp Bagong Diwa detention facility in Bicutan, Taguig City.

Roxas' motion for release, however, was opposed by Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera on the ground that the case is already with the Regional Trial Court Branch 78.

The prosecution said she wanted to immediately have baby Sarah examined by a doctor of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), Bicutan, which was the recommendation of her son's pediatrician. Guerrero also asked the court to allow her to swim and bond with her baby outside the prison at 2nd Management and Penology [SAMP].

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Australian Federal Election 2010

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Pagcor cuts gas subsidy for Manila police cars

AFTER THE controversial P21 million bill for livelihood for policemen, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) is reportedly swapping its fuel subsidy for Manila police cars.

But the Philippine National Police (PNP) spokesman Sr. Supt. Agrimero Cruz, said the reduction in the fuel subsidy for the Manila police will not affect operations of the police officers of the country's premier city.

"Our policemen will stick to their patrol plans given the resources available. We will just have to adjust," Cruz said.

Some of these adjustments, Cruz said, include shooting off the speed rate of air-conditioning system to save on fuel.

He added that the PNP has its own gasoline allowance for patrol cars.

The PNP spokesman did not say how much the Pagcor subsidy was or how much the PNP allowance for gas for patrol cars in Metro Manila. But he said that in rural areas, patrol cars are each given three liters a day. This excludes any gasoline allowance given by local government units. Alexis Romero

File charges, De Lima dares ex-Lacson aide

By Nikko Dizon

JUSTICE SECRETARY Leila de Lima yesterday challenged former police officer Glicerio Dondan to file a formal complaint against the state prosecutors he has accused of coaching him to implicate fugitive Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Ilocos Carbon double murder case.

Instead of just airing his allegations in the media, Dondan should file an appropriate complaint or sworn statement so the prosecutors can be asked to respond formally, she said.

De Lima said yesterday with the prosecutors handling the double murder case, including state prosecutor Hazel Valdez whom Dondan accused of allegedly forcing him to implicate Lacson in the case.

She said the prosecutors have denied Dondan's allegations and showed her the list of questions and answers that lawyers usually prepare for a trial, which she said Dondan could be referring to when he said he was given a script.

"I browsed over it and I didn't [read] anything where he was being made to implicate Lacson]...There was nothing of that sort," De Lima said.

The justice secretary said she would not present the prosecutors if they are found to have engaged in any wrongdoing.

But those attacking them have to be fair by filing the appropriate complaints, she said.

Valdez told reporters that she believed that Dondan's complaint against her was an "issue of perception."

Court convicts 13 Viet poachers

A COURT in Puerto Princesa has fined and sentenced 13 Vietnamese poachers to several months in prison after they were caught two years ago trying to flee with 181 critically endangered turtles, a conservation group said Friday.

The World Wide Fund for Nature said the seamen, handed down last week, could serve as a precedent and a strong warning to poachers from nearby countries who in the past have escaped prison time.

In the last decade more than a thousand foreigners—most of them Chinese and Vietnamese...have been arrested and charged with poaching but "sentences have historically proven easy, under fear of damaging international relations with neighboring countries," WWF said in a statement.

The Philippine navy said it nabbed the Vietnamese fishermen in 2008 after firing warning shots during a 30-minute sea chase as they attempted to scuttle their boat by flooding the hold.

The sailors found 181 drowned Hawksbill Turtles...classified as critically endangered—in the vessel's cargo hold.

LANDMARK. Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) signs landmark compromise agreement with farmer-leaders during the general assembly on Friday attended by 800 farm workers at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac City. Seated from left, Windsor Andaya of the Supervisory Group of HLI; Ruben Pingol, vice president of the United Luisita Workers Union; Jaime Jalbo Suniga, supervisory group of HLI; Ismael 'Pipo' Mendoza, HLI vice president for external affairs; Brgy. Capt. Francisco Ejercito; and Noel Nuñez of Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid ng Hacienda Luisita. Standing from left, Brgy. Capt. Protacio Mayo Jr.; lawyer Fernando Cojuangco, HLI chief operating officer; lawyer Yoly Ligon, spokesperson of HLI; and Brgy. Capt. Renato Lanuza Jr.

Luisita agreement signed after 20-yr dispute

From page A1

HLI vice president for external affairs on the management side, and the farm workers represented by Hacienda Luisita Workers' Union-Federation of Free Workers' (LUWU-FFW) Noel Mallari, president of the Supervisory Group of Hacienda Luisita Unlimited, and Julio Suniga and Windsor Andaya of the Supervisory Group of HLI.

In 2004, these three workers' groups filed independent petitions before the Department of Agrarian Reform that sought to revoke the 1989 agreement which allowed farm workers a stock distribution option (SDO) instead of the usual land distribution.

The new compromise deal was immediately denounced by Ebro president Leo Bute as "illegal" because it did not conform to the 2006 directives of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council and the Department of Agrarian Reform revoking the SDO scheme and ordering the redistribution of 6,435 hectares of the estate's 8,500 hectares under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. (See **related story on Page A2.**)

33% share of land

HLI spokesperson Atty. Yoly Ligon explained that only 3,000 farmers were covered by the new agreement, far fewer than were the ones that represented the Luisita beneficiaries' 10 percent share in the agricultural land.

Ligon said the Supreme Court will decide to approve the new agreement, leading to a pending motion against the nearly year-old writ that prevented the implementation of the PARC order to redistribute the estate. The high court has scheduled a hearing for Aug. 18.

DAR Undersecretary Jimmy Sinsuat said the deal would still have to be approved by the Supreme Court and reviewed by DAR as not if it follows existing agrarian reform laws. He said his office has yet to receive copy of the agreement.

Teofilo Inumerable, the DAR director for Central Luzon, said the terms of the new agreement did not go through his agency. The DAR did not send a representative to the signing ceremonies.

Bute said neither the legitimately elected leaders of Ebro and Ambala nor their lawyers were invited to witness the signing of the new agreement.

He said Mallari should not be representing Ambala because he left the organization after Ebro and mill workers joined the Gerardo Ateneta de Tarlac Labor Union in November 2004 strike.

Referendum

Bute claimed the HLI management had brought 800 farm workers to the clubhouse for the signing, but half of those who came did not sign the document.

The farmers will be holding a referendum this weekend to help the beneficiaries choose whether they will stand by the SDO, committed in a memorandum of agreement of 1989, or proceed with land distribution.

"The farmers are free to decide. If they want to sign, then that's okay. If not, then that's also okay," Ligon said.

Congratulations premature

President Aquino, whose Cojuangco relatives are his maternal family, welcomed the historic deal as "good news."

But he said he has been told that the certification process is ongoing and indications are that the compromise agreement would be signed by majority of the beneficiaries.

"In a referendum, whatever the majority decides is a decision for everybody," Mr. Aquino said.

'Intra-corporate dispute'

The President described what is going on in Luisita as "one to two corporate disputes."

He said he may no longer a party of interest in the dispute as he has already divested his shares in the company.

In the wake of the supposed compromise deal, the Supreme Court properly urged both parties to submit their proper motions for resolution by Monday to allow the high court to decide whether or not to proceed with the oral arguments scheduled for Aug. 18.

As far as the Court is concerned, there is no motion for lack of shareholdings (of HLI), the hearing will proceed as scheduled on Aug. 18. If there is really an agreement and if that agreement will render the case moot, then hopefully the proper manifestations will be filed by Monday," said spokesperson Midas Marquez.

Marquez stressed that the high court cannot rely on television reports and newspaper accounts alone.

The oral arguments were originally scheduled for Aug. 3 but the high court postponed it as it wanted to know who the current stockholders of HLI were.

Divide and conquer

A lawyer for Ambala, one of the four unions at Hacienda Luisita, said they would question the compromise agreement that was signed yesterday.

"Some officers and members were persuaded to sign it either by promise or coercion. There was no approval from the entire organization. Everything can be questioned by the appropriate parties before the court," said lawyer Julieta Pabalan.

Pabalan said the HLI management had used "divide and conquer" methods to compel some union workers and officers to sign the compromise settlement that would be expected to undermine the claims of other farmers.

Pabalan said the compromise talks were made in secret and it would appear that the unions had split on the issue of compensation.

He said the management had in the past bypassed the unions and made overtures directly to workers and farmers.

Some of the signatories, he said, were former members of the unions who sided with the management over the offer of 1,400 hectares of land, significantly lesser than their demand of nearly 3,000 hectares.

Out of fear

There were also some union members who signed it out of fear for their lives, Pabalan claimed.

"Hacienda Luisita is highly militarized. The Army has been persuading the workers to accept the management's settlement," he said.

He said in the past too, "private staff" to the case before the Supreme Court, which was filed to settle the validity of the SDO scheme. Its basis that the signing of the settlement may "render" the land reform agenda ahead of the Aug. 18 high court hearing.

Jesus Lalu, president of JAMS Unions, said the signing ceremony yesterday and the alleged absence of legitimate farm workers in the assembly, was "an insult" to them. He stressed that HLI used to force the SDO on older farm workers.

"We still believe in the legal system and whatever may be decided by the Supreme Court. We accept the decision because we will not let us down," Lalu said.

Financial package

Ligon, the HLI spokesperson, said the spirit of the agreement lies mainly in the directives it gives Luisita farmers to choose how they want it to be compensated under the terms of agrarian reform.

He said discussions to reach a compromise began as early as two years ago. The deal was discussed with the farmers in all the barangays of the hacienda, he said.

"So it is not just the leaders who are signing but the farmer-beneficiaries themselves," he added.

He decried what has happened to the hacienda "because of scientists who were not legitimate beneficiaries."

Ligon said the list of names of the farmers would be attached in a copy of the compromise agreement that would be submitted to the Supreme Court and the DAR for approval.

He said that the farmers would be given a financial package whether they opt to retain their shares under the SDO or the 1,400 hectares of land, significantly lesser than their demand of nearly 3,000 hectares.

Ligon added that the benefits given to the farmers would not be taken away from them, whatever the Supreme Court decides.

Hacienda rehab

An HLI source said that once the labor problems in the hacienda are resolved, management would try to implement a "five-year rehabilitation program" to restore the sugar plantation's viability.

"First on the list is to negotiate with the creditor banks to try to restructure debts that have amounted to P1 billion," the source said.

"The management will also try to restore industrial peace by negotiating for a new collective bargaining agreement," he added.

The source said that portions of the hacienda would be converted into an agro-industrial zone to attract investments.

Critics not hacienda residents

"Investors who want to invest here from the congested areas of the Manila would consider there because it is near the Clark airport and the Subic Bay port," the source said.

He said those criticizing the deal were "not even residents of the hacienda."

"Those who are noisy are not even farmer-beneficiaries. The farmers are tired of the fighting. This is what they want," he concluded. With Norman Bordadora, Nikko Dizon and Svette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Mechanics of the agreement

THE COMPROMISE agreement signed yesterday between the owners and farm workers of Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) obliges HLI to allocate P1.04 billion in financial assistance to the farmer-beneficiaries, to be distributed based on the amount of shares they currently own. Each share is worth P1.27.

The company is obliged to release the land assistance regardless of which option the farmers choose.

The amount of shares owned by each beneficiary will also determine the area of land he or she would be entitled to should they choose direct land allocation.

But the deal also requires farm workers opting for land distribution to "waive all their rights or interests on the remaining assets of HLI."

Right of first refusal

The agreement states that should farm workers decide to liquidate, lease or transfer their assets, they should grant HLI "the right of first refusal."

Should HLI or its assigns fail to match the best offer given to the farm workers within 180 days from the receipt of a written notice, then the farm workers may proceed to deal with third parties," the document read.

The new agreement also imposes new terms. It obliges farm workers to "respect and will not sabotage operations for cultivation of the sugarcane of HLI."

It also requires them to "maintain industrial peace" and "not engage in any strike, boycott or any similar activity which would disrupt or interfere with the normal operations of HLI."

Plum agri use of land

"Land shall be given to them for free and clear of any and all liens and encumbrances. Whatever is the total private agricultural shareholdings in HLI of the farm workers opting for land distribution shall be the equivalent percentage of the size of the land to be given to them from the remaining HLI land actually devoted to agricultural," the agreement stated.

"All monetary and non-monetary benefits, such as home lots and production share, already received by the farm workers shall remain and shall not be questioned, or refunded as a result of land distribution, at the same time, the parties hereby request and will not engage questions on the validity of the assignment of the land," it said.

From page A1

'Cojuangcos don't want to let go of the land'

The Supreme Court has scheduled a meeting for Aug. 18 on an HLI petition against the implementation of a Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) and Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) directive canceling a stock distribution option (SDO) agreement and ordering HLI to redistribute 4,915 hectares of the hacienda lands to the farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Program (CARP).

Under the SDO scheme, the farm workers in 1989 agreed to take shares of stock instead of land. They ended up owning 30 percent of HLI shares.

In 2004, however, the farmers petitioned the DAR to have the SDO revoked after seven workers were killed in a confrontation with soldiers and policemen on Nov. 16, 2004, the PARC ordered DAR to place 4,915 hectares of the Luisita estate under CARP coverage.

The HLI succeeded in getting the Supreme Court to issue a restraining order in 2005.

Déjà vu

Monsod said he could not see any way by which the DAR and the Office of the Solicitor General could change their positions. He would expect the new offices to oppose the compromise deal, he said.

"I do not see how the DAR and the Office of the Solicitor can consider this as a settlement that will benefit the farmers. I suppose the Solicitor and the DAR would object to the compromise," Monsod said.

He said the Cojuangcos were trying to preempt the Supreme Court from ruling on the case with this supposed compromise deal.

"This is déjà vu ... They're trying this so-called compromise to render the Supreme Court case moot and academic," Monsod said.

He said the Cojuangcos thought up the SDO scheme partly to escape a 1968 Manila court decision, based on a blue-sky petition, ordering them to distribute the land to the farmers.

The Court of Appeals dismissed the case in 1988 after government lawyers, then, never moved to withdraw it, reasoning that the hacienda lands were supposed to be distributed under the Aquino government's agrarian reform program.

"Now that there's another case that did not go their way, they're trying this compromise that did not" Monsod said.

He also questioned the new agreement's provision that area set aside only 3,400 hectares, or one-third of the hacienda's land area, for distribution.

"If you look at the agrarian reform program, it says all the land should be given. Even under the farmers-end up owning only one-third of it? That does not make sense. I don't see how that can be considered a compromise," Monsod said.

Where's the money?

Monsod said HLI also cannot claim that the farmers are only getting one-third of the land because they cannot only 33 percent of HLI shares under the SDO.

Monsod explained that the farmers were told in 1989 that they were getting only 33 percent of the shares because this was supposedly the equivalent value of the hacienda land in the whole company.

"Now the farmers are getting only one-third of that land. I don't understand that," he said.

Monsod also noted that HLI had argued in 2005 that the 4,500 hectares it put under the SDO could not be distributed to the then 6,000 farmer beneficiaries because they would then be getting "less than one hectare."

He said the management explained that each farmer getting less one hectare of land was not economically viable for "large-scale sugar production."

"But 35 years (after 1989), it turned out that that (large-scale sugar plantation) conception was not profitable. Now can they (see money for 35 years)?" Monsod said.

"In other words, it did not work as a justification for not distributing the land. It was unfounded," he said.

Getting away with it

And with the new settlement, farmers would now be getting small plots of land, Monsod noted.

"So, who are they fooling? But they got away with it (then)," he said.

Monsod said that because HLI was losing money it set aside in 2004 around 500 hectares which it converted into an industrial park. They also used 166 hectares to pay debts to the rebel Communist Party Corp.

"There realized P1.2 billion to pay off debts and make up for the losses but the farmers only got P15.5 million because under the (SDO) they would only get a 3-percent share of gross sales," Monsod said.

"Where did the money go? And now they are again losing money," he said.

Recruiters of exploited RP teachers sued in US

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana—A class action lawsuit filed Thursday accuses a Los Angeles-based company of a human trafficking scheme to bring hundreds of Filipino teachers to Louisiana public schools using exploitative contracts that changed them into illegal labor.

Universal Placement International Inc. and its owner Lourdes Navarro are accused of racketeering and fraud in a lawsuit that the American Federation of Teachers and the Southern Poverty Law Center said they filed in a California federal court on behalf of 200 teachers.

"We were invited on a path, a slowly constricting path, where the moment you realize that something is not right, you were already past the point of no return," said Ingrid Cruz, one of the teachers named as a plaintiff in the case, recalling how a prepared statement, Cruz teaches science and robotics classes at a Baton Rouge-area middle school.

The lawsuit says the company illegally required the teachers to pay thousands of dollars in fees to be hired to jobs mainly in East Baton Rouge Parish, but also in Caddo, Calcasieu and other parishes and in universities in New Orleans.

Saddled with debts

Teachers were saddled with crippling debts, pinned into shoddy housing, and threatened with deportations if they complained, said Daniel Mitchell, a lawyer for the AFT, equating the conditions to forced labor and indentured servitude.

"That is far closer to slavery than we should be willing to tolerate," said Mary Bauer, legal director of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Quarantino to Universal Placement International Inc. denied the lawsuit's main allegation to a Los Angeles-based lawyer who didn't immediately return a phone call Thursday from The Associated Press.

Each teacher had to pay about $30,000 before leaving the Philippines—five times the average annual household income in the country, the lawsuit alleges. If they couldn't afford the fees, teachers borrowed money, in many instances from lenders recommended by the recruiting firm who charged hefty interest rates, lawyers for the teachers union said last week.

Many lives and supposedly legal transactions followed once the teachers arrived in the United States, the lawsuit claims. like contracts in which the teachers agreed to pay a percentage of their monthly income to Universal and fees for arranging housing. Passports and visas were confiscated to ensure the fees would be paid, the lawsuit says.

Another suit in RP

The lawsuit—also filed against Universal's sister operation in the Philippines, PMSI International Placement Agency—seeks a refund of all the fees paid by teachers and damages including staffmen.

Also named in the lawsuit is the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board and several current and former school system administrators, including former Superintendent Charlotte Placide. They are accused of ignoring the alleged abuses and, in some cases, assisting the recruiting company with illegal behavior.

"It was more than turning a blind eye. They actively participated in what was going on," Bauer said.

A spokesperson for the EBR Parish School System issued a statement saying the system hasn't officially been served with the lawsuit, and couldn't yet respond to the allegations.

"The school system values all of its employ-

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MSD

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 7, 2010
18th Week in Ordinary Time
Memo: R / Cafeteria

Lectionary: 18b 3:1-2:4
Gospel: Mk 17:1-6.26

A man approached Jesus, knelt before him and said, "Sir, have pity on my son who is an epileptic and is very wretched state. He keeps on falling into the fire and at other times into the water. I brought him to your disciples but they could not heal him."

Jesus replied, "You faithless and evil people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus reprimanded the evil spirit so that the boy, and the boy was immediately healed.

The disciples then gathered around Jesus and asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive out this spirit?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have little faith. I say to you: If only you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could tell this mountain to move from here to there, and it would move. Nothing would be impossible to you."

Commentary

"Why couldn't we drive the demon out?" And Jesus answered: Because you do not have enough faith."

Faith is knowing that at the end of the day, no matter what life looks like from time, God is in it with us, carrying us on, depending on us to complete the work of creation.

Suicide bombing in Zambo airport ruled out

From page A1

the city yesterday.

Senior Supt. Edwin Roscom Pe, the acting police chief of Zamboanga, identified the man who was instantly killed in the explosion as Reynaldo Aplitado, a carpenter who lived in Sitio Cacaopan, Barangay Mampang.

Pe said the police had also identified the bomber as Ismael Toto, also another Governor Tan, as the latter had claimed, Bocaongan said police investigators had yet to establish it.

But had earlier said he believed that he was the target of another assassination plot.

"The explosion [occurred] right next to me," he said, adding that he had escaped several attempts on his life, including a bomb attack just outside the Iloilo provincial capital on May 14, 2009.

Tan, who was among the passengers who landed at the airport shortly before the explosion, also said it was "most likely" a suicide attack.

But Bocaongan said: "Until, today, it's not a case of suicide bombing."

Col. Santiago Baltazar, commander of Task Force Zamboanga, also rejected the suicide bomber theory.

Backpack

Bocaongan said authorities had suspected that Aplitado was carrying a bomb in his backpack when it suddenly went off at around 6 p.m.

He said Aplitado appeared to have been waiting for someone or something when the explosion occurred.

"Aplitado could have carried a bigger baggage with explosives, and he might have been in control of it because based on the force of the explosion, the bomb went off from behind him," Bocaongan said.

He said Aplitado's body was dismembered as a result of the explosion.

Bocaongan also said authorities were trying to establish a link, if any, between Aplitado and the second man killed, Ismael Huron Sayab of Barangay Subo-Sutin in Lantawan, Basilan.

Sayab died while being treated at the Brent Hospital in Zamboanga.

Witnesses had told investigators that Sayab was about a meter away from Aplitado at the time of the explosion.

Bocaongan maintained that it was not a suicide bomb attack. "If Aplitado intended to target and bomb, he could have placed the bomb or carried the bag in front of him, facing the passengers coming out of the arrival terminal. But the bag was on his back."

He reiterated that it was even possible that Aplitado had no idea he was carrying a bomb.

US helping probe

In Kuwait City, US Embassy spokesperson Sybren Thompson told the Inquirer by phone that American soldiers deployed in Mindoro Mindanao were helping their Filipino counterparts in investigating the explosion.

Thompson said the US government would like to know whether the reported terror group Ansarul Islamiyah (US) had a hand in the attack.

"US forces provide support and information as requested by the Philippine military," Thompson said.

Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, head of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Western Mindanao Command, said evidence that the explosion was the result of the extension idea lapsed or its allies in the Abu had yet to be found.

"Other possible experts are still determining the explosive used because there were no explosive fragments," Dolorfino said.

Said Senior Supt. Alex Linsangan, chief of the Zamboanga Regional Mindanao Intelligence Division: "We have no idea, and we can't [attribute] to any terrorist organization. Police are conducting a probe. Let's wait for the results."

Bocaongan said the continuing investigation was indicating a political motive.

He said that aside from Tan, no other politicians were emerging from the airport when the explosion occurred.

Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat also said a radio station that authorities were not hearing the suicide bomber angle.

"I can't say that it was a suicide bombing because they didn't find a detonating device in the area. It could have been detonated remotely," he said.

He pointed out that footage from the airport's surveillance camera showed that Aplitado did not move his hand before the explosion occurred.

"Another person might have detonated the bomb," Lobregat said.

Brgen. Charles Macker (also identified in reports as Charles McKeefrie) remains in critical condition as a hospital in Zamboanga.

He is said to be married to a local woman and has been living in the city for years.

Papal Nuncio's visit

Speaking over the Catholic Church's Radio Veritas, Zamboanga archbishop Romulo Valles lamented the violence and called on authorities to conduct an immediate investigation to ensure the security of celebrations.

The explosion occurred two days before a scheduled visit of Papal Nuncio Edward Joseph Adams to Jolo, Zamboanga Sibugay—about 130 kilometers from Zamboanga City—where a Vatican representative is scheduled for the elevation of its parish church to a diocese.

Valles said the event on Saturday was to coincide with the installation of Bishop Julio Tonel as Jolo's first bishop, over which Adams had been set to preside.

The papal nuncio was to travel for two hours to Jolo from Zamboanga City by plane for the affair. With reports from Jessica R. Ilo, Jerome Aning and Rona J. Aquilapan in Manila

Subic, Clark execs highest paid gov't men

From page A1

owned and/or controlled corporations and secretaries, undersecretaries and assistant secretaries of national government agencies.

BSMED Administrator Armand Arteta was the official who got the highest salary and allowances from the government in 2009—P28,861-million.

He was followed in the top 10 by CDC President Hortencia Ricafort—P14,506-million;

BSP (deputy Chief Executive Officer Edgardo Cuenca—P12.718 million; and

BSP Governor Armando Tetangco—P10,772 million;

Udong brother and Bunye

Also on the list of top earners was Presidential Adviser of the MWSS Corporate Office, who received P4.6 million in salaries and allowances and was hired 2006.

Former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's ex-Press Secretary, Ignacio Bunye, was 41st with P4.2 million. He joined the Energy Regulatory Board after making head of the BSP in June 2008.

Mahilum is a brother of Surigao "Udong" Mahilum who, in 2003, grabbed headlines when he claimed that his ex-wife, while busy, then First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, had signed a check in "Kodak Filipino."

Udong Mahilum, principal witness of his Pantilio Lacson against Mike Arroyo, later recanted his statement after he was "rescued" from a Baguio jail house by his relatives and then-Interior Secretary Michael Defensor.

The safe house was purportedly provided by Lacson, who had accused Mike Arroyo of making away P521 million of campaign funds to hide under the feminine "Jose Pidal" name.

Besides Mahilum, four other MWSS corporate officers were on the top 15—Alberto Reyes, Lourdes Stobich, Ramon Arevalo and Mario Cruz, the last named recently by President Aquino as officer in charge.

Arroyo statement

Commenting on the inclusion on the list, however, of Arroyo's salary was P111,000, with a take-home pay of P95,266. (In comparison, President Aquino's monthly pay is P95,000 before taxes).

According to the COA, the bulk of the P26.861 million listed under Arroyo's salary and allowances in 2009 fell under the category "extraordinary and miscellaneous expenses."

"My compensation has remained as it was since I was appointed in 2005. It was the same salary enjoyed by my predecessors, too and has been set since 2000," he said. "Extraordinary expenses do not form part of my income. These are expenses of the agency for promotions, advertising and representation. While my office approves them, none of this goes to my personally."

Arroyo added: "Our annual budget reaches P2 billion annually. Extraordinary expenses only make up less than 1 percent of our total budget. These are the all supported with the requisite receipts and liquidations.

For transparency purposes

The COA list "has been coming out with the reports on the audited financial statements as a 1992 memorandum order intended to monitor the salaries and allowances of government officials holding multiple positions.

"The publication of herein data is in accord with the present thrust of the government for transparency in all transactions and operations," the COA said in its 2009 report.

But it also noted that not all of the government agencies submitted data for the particular report.

For instance, there was no information on the salaries and allowances of the officials of the Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS), the House of Representatives and the Office of the President Proper.

Extraordinary, miscellaneous

Arroyo's basic annual salary was P1.17 million, according to the report, but he also received P16.146 million in extraordinary and miscellaneous expenses; P6.032 million for "others;" P1.05,400 in bonus and incentives; and P198,900 in representation and transportation allowances (RATA), among others.

Under the 2009 budget, extraordinary and miscellaneous expenses could include expenses incurred for meetings, seminars, and conferences; official entertainment; public relations; educational and cultural activities; and contributions to charitable institutions.

They could also include membership in government associations; subscription to professional technical journals; office equipment and supplies; and other similar expenses not supported by the regular budget allocation.

Nicdort, Garcia, Tetangco

As for Ricafort, the COA report showed that his basic salary was at P1.078 million. But he also received P19 million in extraordinary and miscellaneous expenses; P821,400 in per diem for serving in the Board of Directors of the CDC and the Clark International Airport Corp.; P600,056 in RATA; P397,661 in "others"; and P336,344 in bonus and incentives.

Garcia, a board member of several government agencies, received a basic salary of P1.021 million. He also got P1.533 million in "others"; P1.058 million in bonus and incentives; and P173,357 in RATA.

Tetangco's basic salary in 2009 was P1.736 million, being in more than one agency. Tetangco had P1.074 million in extraordinary and miscellaneous expenses; P1.028 million in bonus and other incentives; and P601,416 in RATA.

Bitonio, Geronimo, Abaya

DBP Executive Vice President Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio Jr. is also an officer of several PSE agencies, and his basic salary in 2009 was P4.561 million. Under "others," he received P1.761 million. He also got P612,870 in bonus and incentives and P165,225 in RATA.

Like his DBP colleagues, DBP Senior Executive Vice President Rolando Geronimo is also a member of several agencies. His basic salary was P4.417 million. He received P1.663 million in "others"; incentives P749,761 in bonus and incentives; and P162,899 in RATA.

BCDA's Santos Abaya, former Armed Forces chief of staff, received a basic salary of P5.075 million. His "others" amounted to P2.059 million, while the total amount of his per diem for sitting in various agencies was P1.324 million. His RATA was at P288,494.

CDA list: Highest paid government officials in 2009

From page A1

25. Oscar Albayalde, Subic	BSP	4,864,729.00	
26. Edgar Arbulado	MWSS-OD	4,841,099.01	
27. Ramsay Santiago	MWSS-OD	4,833,780.93	
28. Isidro Lorenzo II	MWSS-OD	4,761,107.24	
29. Arthur Aquino	MWSS-OD	4,740,899.39	
30. Ramon Arevalo	BSP	4,721,456.00	
31. Dr. Cristino Naguiat Jr.	BSP	4,714,655.00	
32. Antonio Abaya	BSP	4,698,715.74	
33. Ramon Tuazon	BSP	4,682,202.34	
34. Ma. Gricel Valencia	PCSO	4,651,307.31	
35. Arsenio Valdez	PCSO	4,644,789.00	
36. Antonio Acosta	BSP	4,644,255.81	
37. Eric Alcaraz	MWSS-OD	4,593,530.39	
38. Jose Mapa	BSP	4,501,911.00	
39. Gregorio Tuazon	PCSO	4,284,784.00	
40. Ornato, Cerelina	PCSO	4,268,008.70	
41. Reyes, Ignacio	BSP	4,251,171.01	

A list of employees officials and members of governing boards of GOCCs and their subsidiaries and various agencies, whether regular, casual, contractual, co-terminus, and other officials of equivalent rank of GOCCs who received salaries and allowances over P500

Lights out: Meralco rates rising this month by P6.0962 per kWh

From page A1

bills will increase by an average of 22 centavos per kWh.

Year's 2nd highest

Around 40 percent or 1.9 million of Meralco's residential customers are currently classified as lifeline consumers, who enjoy discounts ranging from 20 percent to 100 percent, depending on their monthly consumption.

For households consuming 200 kWh monthly, the increase in their electricity bills is higher at an average of P88, while those with a 300 kWh consumption will experience a P132 increase in their monthly bills.

According to Meralco, this month's generation charge is the second highest for the year, and only 67 centavos lower than the peak level of P6.77 per kWh registered in April. The 44-centavo adjustment in the generation charge is also equivalent to an increase of around a peso-bill from the average July 2010 Meralco bill.

The generation charge for August 2010 is based on power suppliers' billings for July 2010.

Meralco explained that the effective cost of purchases from the WESM increased by P1.68 per kWh to almost P11 per kWh in July from only P7.90 per kWh in June.

Of the P3.68 per kWh increase, P1.96 would be due to higher market clearing prices; 60 centavos would be from an increase in line rental cost; while the remaining 77 centavos would be due to various adjustments.

Tampering effect

Meanwhile, Meralco further explained that the lower cost of supply from state-run National Power Corp. (Napocor) provided a tampering effect to the high cost of WESM purchases.

According to the utility, the effective cost of purchases from Napocor decreased by P1.68 centavos to P4.96 per kWh in July from P5.58 in June.

However, the average rate of the power distributor's independent power producers (IPPs) increased slightly by 7.7 centavos.

Meralco explained that while the cost of power from the Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo natural gas plants had dropped by 13 centavos and 129 centavos per kWh, respectively, the cost of power from Quezon Power Ltd. rose by P1.26 per kWh due to lower dispatch levels in July.

The natural gas plants were Meralco's cheapest suppliers at around P4.15 per kWh for Sta. Rita and P4.46 per kWh for San Lorenzo.

Easing of prices

"It is expected that with the onset of the rainy season, the availability of the hydroplants will improve. This, hopefully, will result to an easing of prices in the WESM, which had remained high since February 2010," Meralco explained.

According to the utility, movements in the generation charge have closely followed the movement of prices in the WESM.

In April, Meralco and Dagupan Electric Corp. had already written to ERMC, among concerns about the operations of the market in February.

According to a PEMC report dated July 22, market prices in February were mostly above P10,000 per megawatt-hour, with spikes that were unprecedented in the last four years.

It was recommended that the market assessment of February 2010 be revisited and that the level of offered prices be probed, explained and understood for regulatory and policy development, said Meralco, which cited portions of the report.

Due to the high cost of power in the market, Meralco has been seriously seeking to source more power both from Napocor and from power generators under deregulated contracts.

Meralco stressed anew that it does not earn a single centavo from the movements in the generation charge.

Defense lawyers want GMA to testify for Ampatuans

From page A1

hance presented at the preliminary conference," Assistant State Prosecutor Juan Pedro Navarro yesterday told the lawyers.

"They intend to call on ... Arroyo," he said, adding that the defense intended to call as many as 200 persons to the stand.

As for the prosecution, Navarro said it had lined up 170 potential witnesses, including Gilberto Teodoro Jr., Arroyo's former defense secretary and the standard bearer of the then ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD in the May elections.

Under the Rules of Court, an accused may ask the court to subpoena the persons named as defense witnesses and require them to testify.

The massacre in Maguindanao left 57 people, including at least 31 media workers, sparked international outrage.

On Nov. 23, 2009, a convoy of journalists and supporters of then Buluan Vice Mayor Ismael Mangudadatu was waylaid by around 100 armed men led by Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. in Ampatuan, Maguindanao.

The Sunday Mangudadatu's wife and two sisters and 21 media workers were among those later found in a pit dug by a backhoe.

Reschedule

The Ampatuans are known allies of Arroyo. Ampatuan Jr., his father Ampatuan Sr., a former governor of Maguindanao, along with other suspects including some 60 policemen, are under custody.

Yesterday's pretrial conference before the consolidated panels were expected to agree on certain details in the case to speed up the process, was ordered reset by Judge Jocelyn Solis Reyes of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 221 because lawyer Nelson Roque did not show up.

Reyes ordered that Roque, who represents Sup. Michael Jay Mastura, explain his absence under pain of being cited for contempt. Lawyers reminded Reyes that Mastura was under detention

Across the NATION

Subic board to fight Noy on midnight posts

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The board of directors of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) plans to challenge before the Supreme Court President Aquino's decision to fire all midnight appointees of his predecessor, including half of the SBMA board's members.

Lawyer Eddie Tamondong, an SBMA board director, said "more than half of us [13 SBMA directors] were hit by [Executive Order 2, which revoked on Aug. 9 all appointments made by former President Macapagal-Arroyo on or after March 11]. The executive order is not only [not] well-thought out and oppressive, but [is] also invalid."

"On Monday [Aug. 9], [we] will file before the Supreme Court a petition challenging the constitutionality of EO 2. I think that as far as my personal situation is concerned, I can knock out that EO," he said.

Tamondong was appointed on March 1 for a six-year term as SBMA director, but he took his oath on March 25 which occured [six among the appointees Mr. Aquino had fired.

He described the circumstances under EO 2 as "arbitrary and unjustifiable given abuse of power."

Tamondong, who is also chair of the Freeport Service Corp., was appointed acting director in January 2008.

He said: "I continued serving as director until I was given an appointment by [Arroyo] for a term of six years. I took my oath on March 25. In turn, my appointment was outside the prohibited 45-day period of the Constitution and the 45-day [prohibition] of the election law. Where's the odd-night appointment there?"

Tamondong said the other members of the SBMA board, who were technically fired by EO 2, were Hans Sy-Cuyong, Sardani Saño, Ricardo Encarnacion, Jesus Vicente Magsaysay, Marivic Poseda and Angelita Cruz.

SBMA board members Alvin Capino, Ariel Castro, Jorge Salvador, Francis Garcia and Jovencio Ong, who were all appointed on March 1, are exempt from the new directive along with board member Teodoro del Rosario, who was appointed on Jan. 14, 2009.

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza and SBMA Chair Roilan Roluna, who were both appointed on Sept. 19, 2005, also compose the board.

Magsaysay, son of Zambales Rep. Maria Milagros Magsaysay, confirmed that the board met on Friday (Aug. 6). "I didn't go anymore. As of now we are looking at our options. [But] the law will be followed," he said.

Ex-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had appointed more than 900 officials to various positions in government or government-owned and -controlled corporations weeks before the August down beat of Noy-no Aquino. With Aubert Clemente, Inquirer Central Luzon

Ill-fated plane allowed to land despite storm

BAGUIO CITY—Despite a storm signal raised over the summer capital on Thursday, airport authorities here allowed a two-seater light aircraft to land in foggy Loakan Airport.

The plane later crashed and turned belly-up at the edge of the runway, although its pilot and passenger survived.

Investigators of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board inspected the Cessna-152 owned by Clean Aviation Flying School on Friday but their initial findings were not made public. Clean operates in the Clark Freeport.

"Inspectors are looking at three angles in their investigation—human error, mechanical error and nature," said airport manager Misty Selya Sagcuysi.

But Sagcuysi said the weather on Thursday was fit for flying.

The weather bureau raised signal No. 1 over Baguio and Benguet, due to "typhoon Dodong."

Reports showed that the plane bounced twice off the tarmac as it descended at 9:25 a.m. and landed with its wheels turned up to the sky on a grassy knoll near the runway. *Rose Kristine Dandoy, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

'Jueteng,' alleged links won't die in Batangas

BATANGAS CITY—The illegal numbers game "Jueteng" and talk of its continued operation in the province refuse to die even after the death of Gov Armando Sanchez.

Operators of the underworld lottery are now dropping the name of one of the province's most distinguished sons, Sen. Ralph Recto, although sources said Recto has no hand in the illegal numbers game.

Senior Supt. Alberto Supapo, Batangas police director, said the continued talk of Sanchez's and Recto's alleged involvement in the numbers racket was a case of "character assassination for both parties."

"I admit that there are still guerrillas (rigue) jueteng in some towns in Batangas. It couldn't be controlled easily. But we do not tolerate it," he said.

He said police arrested collectors who kept silent on who their financiers were.

Col. Reynaldo Acupalo, Batangas police information officer, said 31 persons involved in jueteng have been arrested since January with a total of P31,103.25 in bets confiscated.

Supapo said it was highly doubtful if men who operated jueteng would remain loyal to whoever financed them, especially if it was fearless, as alleged in the past.

"Will the dead still have ministers?" he said.

He said even before Sanchez became governor, he had already ceased involvement in jueteng and operated Small Town Lottery instead.

On jueteng operators using Recto's name, Supapo was more disbelieving: "What has he got to do with it? He is not involved here." A jueteng worker, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisal, said a certain Cesar Reyes was the one dropping the name of Recto in jueteng operations in Batangas.

Armando Catubig, operations manager of STL in Batangas said bets placed at Small Town Lottery outlets were not fearless spreading jueteng because they are focused on STL.

"Betting lots for jueteng is illegal and we are coordinating with the police and town mayors to eradicate it. It will also ruin our business," said Catubig.

He said his group even helps police arrest jueteng operators.

"I do not know who operates jueteng in Batangas and we do not have evidence to pinpoint anyone," he said.

A source from Barangay Aplaya, Nasugbu town, said her 50-year old aunt and her aunt's husband are jueteng collectors.

"Getting bets for jueteng is normal in the community as most people in the neighborhood are into it," she said.

Another was elected mayor of Sto. Tomas town in 2004 and became governor of Batangas in 2004.

He escaped death in 2006 after a bomb was planted in his Mansion. Two of his aides, however, died in the attack.

Sanchez had been invited to the past two Senate hearings on jueteng operations in the province. Marvyn Ortiz Lemia, Inquirer Southern Luzon

'Justice on Wheels' frees 200 detainees

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—At least 200 detainees in Negros Occidental and Iloilo provinces were released after the cases against them were dismissed following hearings held in mobile courtrooms.

The cases were resolved through the Enhanced Justice on Wheels (EJoW) program of the Supreme Court, a travel van of wedding cake building with the use of buses that had been converted into courtrooms and toured around the country.

The detainees' release came after 17 judges held hearings in courtrooms in two Justice on Wheels buses and at the Hall of Justice in Bacolod City, Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said.

In Iloilo City, Ajoe Saratoga also led in the release of 150 detainees on Wednesday. A total of 278 detainees were released in Negros Occ.

The EJoW was started by former Chief Justice Reynato Puno to help dispose of cases that are clogging courts nationwide and depopulate jails by freeing detainees who were wrongly charged or had spent more time in jail than that merited by the crimes they were accused of.

Chief Justice Renato Corona continued Puno's program. He said on Thursday that one of the objectives was to set free detainees who had been wrongly kept in jail.

"Some of the detainees have been in jail longer than they should have," said Corona.

The chief justice said several reasons have led to detainees spending longer time in jail than what they should have been penalized with if they were convicted.

THE St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Tara village, Bolinao

Neighbor gives shelter to Pangasinan's elders

By Tobitha Soriano
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—How Antonio Lugay, 67, was brought to the Little Sisters of the Poor that operates Saint Joseph Home for the Elderly here is a story that should touch every Filipino's heart.

Joy Rosario, a Dagupan City resident, was watching a TV news program when it featured an unclaimed man bathed by pals, and who lived in squalor at a Sapyangbog village dugout which has no walls.

Rosario contacted the reporter and was surprised that it was Lugay's neighbor, Carlita Nieves, 28, who asked the television network to broadcast the plight of Lugay, of Lolo Iroyo.

"For more than a year, it was Nieves's father's, who fed Lolo Tonyo. The Nieves would have taken him to their house, but they were raising their nephews and nieces and their house could no longer accommodate another person," Rosario said.

Abandoned

Lugay's right leg was broken from an accident. His relatives had abandoned him.

Her fellow memories of them door-knocking days on that fading under the loving care of nuns and caregivers who have adopted him in the facility.

Everyone relies on the phrase as "the Home," put God strip a bill overlooking a village called Tara.

Today, Lugay is one of the Home's 33 residents.

In the hill, Lugay is fed sumptuous food and his physical needs are well attended. "It is sad that he cannot walk, that he was yesterday a rare among wheelchair bound residents," said Sr. Frances Marie.

Story to tell

The Home also has a story to tell.

The facility hopes to address the growing question of the presence of families taking care of their elderly.

The Home for the Elderly can read more hotels in design, cuisine and facilities, evoking the grandeur of Tara, which is also the name of the fictional plantation and home of a character in the classic novel "Gone with the Wind."

The three-story, 36-bedroom facility offers rooms with picture-perfect views. The building can be reached through a driveway along a manicured lawn.

Oldest resident

Its oldest resident is 96-year old Trinidad Eustace from Bolinao, who still remembers she was born on Jan. 11, 1914, that her husband died in 1961, and that she has five children who "collect garbage for a living."

"Once they retired are here. I am very old now. I am just waiting for the Lord to take me," she said in her native tongue.

Rhianelo Bernardez, another member of the Home, used to live in a neighbor's house over a beach. The room was essentially a leaf inside of bamboo, which was thickened only by a thatched roof, until the nuns found him.

The Home's administration often coordinates with the local unit of Social Welfare and Development, asking them to bring in those he elderly.

"But we [need to first] assess if the person is qualified to reside to the Home," Sr. Frances Marie said.

The Home requires the elderly to be at least 60 years old and to present proof that their family cannot afford to keep them, evidence that they have no communicable diseases and that they have no psychological disorder.

Although the Home is essentially a Catholic-run facility, it welcomes people regardless of their faith.

Treasured visits

Everyone at the Home cherishes visits, even from strangers.

"We welcomed that [they have] almost no visitors because their relatives are also poor and may not be able to afford the transportation fare," said Mother Lourdes Hendricks, the facility's mother superior.

Death is also a lingering presence at the Home. Two members have died since April 2009 when the Home started operations.

The facility can accommodate 70 residents, but it requires the services of more nuns to maintain the level of care needed by each resident.

Army worms find way into farms in Laguna

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—FROM QUEZON, Batangas and provinces in Bicol and the Visayas, army worms are now in Laguna.

Marlon Tobias, Laguna agriculturist, said at least 1,400 hectares of farms in the province are now infested by army worms.

The destructive pests, which feed on grass and grains, have been seen in farms since the last week of July, said Tobias.

"They attack almost everything that has a green, including grass," Tobias said in a phone interview.

He said the worms normally last for one month before they metamorphose into moths after about 30 days.

The agriculturist office said the presence of army worms was first reported in the town of Sta. Maria.

Other towns that the worms invaded were Pagsanjan, Cavinti, Magdalena, Kalayaan, Calauan and Victoria. Laguna has a total agricultural area of 16,000 ha.

"These are outbreaks just ordinary pests, the farmers just neglected them," Tobias said.

Meanwhile Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

INQUIRER

There is more to Bantayan than eggs, fish

By Carla P. Gomez
Bantayan Island

BANTAYAN ISLAND on the northern tip of Cebu produces two million eggs a day from a thriving poultry industry and is famous for its dried fish.

But there is more to it than being the "egg basket" of the province. It is home to beautiful beaches and to a rich history of Catholicism dating back to 1580.

The island (population: 120,183) of three towns—Bantayan, Madridejos and Santa Fe—is a fishing hub located within the surrigaon route of fish coming from the South China Sea.

But years of overfishing, bleaching, use of poison and fine mesh nets, and the intrusion of commercial fishing boats within its municipal waters have caused the decline of Bantayan's marine resources. The municipalities have adopted protection measures.

Bantayan Mayor Jun Christopher Rosario is paying equal attention to boosting local tourism. For him, preserving the island's natural beauty, history and resources is part of his environ ment.

Rosario comes from a long line of Rosario mayors. His forefather, Gregorio Rosario, was first appointed president before winning the town's first election in 1903.

Actually, Vince Rosario, in the town's commitment to tourism and cultural affairs. He and Bantayan's white sands and blue waters were drawing tourists to the resorts.

Stopovers have also discovered Bantayan. They jet ski, dive, snorkel and spin in their speedboats, or swim in the azure sands.

Among the attractions are the Cho-oh Mangrove Garden and the Saints Peter and Paul Parish museum, which houses artifacts dating back to June 11, 1580, and its church, built in 1859 and completed in 1863, which also served as a fortress of defense and Spanish conquerors during Moro raids.

Tall stone walls and semiformers surround the church and convent, as well as half of the public plaza.

Papal dispensation

Unlike Catholics in other parts of the country, the islanders ask for special permission to eat meat on days of fasting and obligation, particularly on Good Friday, and Black Saturday.

Proof of this is contained in an indult on display at the Bantayan Parish Museum, which was granted according to the rules and regulations of Pope Leo XII through the Spanish Church in 1823. According to the online dictionary, an indult is "a dispensation granted often temporarily by the pope, permitting a deviation from church law."

The museum's indult, given through Padre Dionisio Andrada del Rosario, requires parishioners to perform acts of penance and charity work in exchange for permission to eat meat during Holy Week.

Its ancient copy, along with many items on display are reminders of the past of Saints Peter and Paul Parish. The oldest parish in Visayas and Mindanao, it was founded on June 13, 1580, as the Convento de la Asuncion de Nuestra Señora.

Rosario said the Spaniards used Bantayan as a jumping point for military incursions and Christianization because its rich fishing grounds could sustain their troops.

The Bantayan Fortress church has a gunmetal-like grayish coral exhibited along two sides of its clay-tile roof. It served as a shelter for residents and military officials during the perilous period of the Moro raids, museum curator Rene Gonquiza said.

The thick walls are made of corals, egg white, limestone and sap of local trees, he said.

Restored on both sides of the church are patron saints of the rich people who helped finance its construction. The altar is decorated with a gold leaf.

At the museum are vestments of priests with designs embroidered in gold thread and an ivolium, a box-like structure carried by two men on their shoulders and used by a priest to go on the homes of the sick to administer the sacrament.

A ledger dated 1625 to 1800 contains records of baptisms in Bantayan. The parishioners were given two names but on barely names because these were recognized only around mid-June of 1850, Inquirer.net explained.

Also on display is a comb, a dozen small bells attached to a circular device.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

'The bigger picture'

WELL-DESERVED" are the only words that come to mind at the news that Filipino couple Christopher and Maria Victoria Brenzikofer are among the winners of the 2010 Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

Considered the Nobel Prize of Asia, the Magsaysay Awards hailed the Brenzikos as "bright lights" in the field of science education, for their "purposeful commitment to both science and nation, ensuring innovative, low-cost and effective basic education even under Philippine conditions of great scarcity and daunting poverty."

EDITORIAL

Scarcity and poverty, indeed, have marked the state of Philippine education for decades now, as inadequate budgets, poorly trained teachers, sickly reaching methods and a lack of focus and innovative push on the part of the national leadership have led to ever-declining results in Filipino students' aptitude in subjects across the board, but most notably in math and science.

These conditions are never more apparent than in a remote town like Jagna, Bohol, where the Brenzikos couple decided to relocate in 1998, to run a small, struggling high school founded by Christopher's grandfather.

Their return had the element of the quixotic to it. In the 1980s, they headed the National Institute of Physics at the University of the Philippines, where their teaching and research won them university awards for excellence. Then they both went to the State University of New York to earn their doctoral degrees in Physics. The Brenzikos had built up distinguished international reputations in their field, but they left all that for the challenge of turning around a rural school no poor then to see built on land it didn't even own.

In Jagna, the Brenzikos took a look at their constituency—some 500 students from poor families, mostly engaged in farming—and devised a radical way of teaching science and other subjects to them. Called the Central Visayas Institute Foundation (CVIF) Dynamic Learning Program, it was, as the Magsaysay citation put it, "a cost-effective strategy focused on strong fundamentals [that] limits teacher participation by devoting 70 percent of class time to student-driven activities built around close learning targets, aided by well-designed learning plans and performance-tracking tools."

"Learning by doing," the Brenzikos called it, and its most ingenious aspect was to recognize that, by virtue of their circumstances, CVIF's students required a different way of processing and appreciating learning. Most of the children lived far away from school, often in homes with no plumbing or electricity. They were also expected to help their families earn a living, allowing them little or no time to do their homework and studies.

The Brenzikos' simple but revolutionary solution was to take homework out of these students' home and incorporate it into their daily school activities. In class, in active discussions with their peers under the guidance of an expert teacher and minutely tracked with the use of student activity sheets, the students learned not only by listening—the dominant mode of teaching elsewhere—but by intensive interaction. Learning, usually an isolated endeavor, was now a collective effort, and, with the teacher's close supervision, science and math no longer were daunting.

The results so far have borne witness to the efficacy of the Brenzikos' pedagogy: Not only have the students of CVIF scored better in national scholastic aptitude exams compared to their peers in other parts of the country, but quite a few have made it to the toughest universities in Manila, where none could for many years before that.

Educators from all over the Philippines have flocked to Jagna to learn from the Brenzikos' example. More astoundingly, the small town has also hosted an international physics conference every three to four years, with absolutely no government support. The Brenzikos couple's work and their reputable standing in international science circles have attracted the likes of Frank Wilczek and Gerardt't Hooft, 2004 and 1998 Nobel Prize winners, respectively, to journey to this far-flung part of the Philippines and speak at the conference.

"For us, it has always been the bigger picture, the country. We both wanted to do something for the country," Marivic had said of their move from New York to Bohol.

They have, clearly. And the Magsaysay medallion only reaffirms it.

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The 'latigo' syndrome

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

IT'S THE "leadership syndrome" sneaked within the Ombudsman, summoned Senate Legacy of Rolls-on Viewpoint column: "Hot rats and memorable." (Inquirer, 7/27/10). Merceditas Gutierrez parachuted on the Renato murder from the bridge."

The parents of murdered Navy Ensign Philip Renato joined impeachment charges against the Ombudsman. Bayan and Tondo Patrolia softened a March 10 UN Commission on Human Rights resolution that confirmed Senate Report 800: the 23 year old PMA graduate had been bludgeoned, then killed almost 800 ft. robot(CR).

The Senate and United Nations directly challenged the credibility of the Navy claim that the ensign committed suicide. The Navy ruled suicide 24 hours after the discovery of Renato's body; zero investigation.

Renato finished the hauling of "her mother" and shelter on the Navy base. Then Senate President (and former Supreme Court chief justice) Marcelo Fernan and then senator, now Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim flayed the Navy for allowing evidence to be tampered. Seeing officers were not convinced.

The Ombudsman, in 2006, swore the Human Rights Commission "will be given full cooperation." Instead, "limited further investigation, but the Ombudsman did nothing," the UN said.

"Did Gutierrez try to honor the 1997 Leonor Laguna asked. "Did she become confident after the Ombudsman whitewashed the ZTE broadband scam and other scandals—and got away?"

"Inaction was as to result of panic dusting in the conduct of an 'impartial, effective and timely' investigation," the lady engineer added. "Ironically, the Philippines was one of the original signatories to the Human Rights Convention on Dec. 10, 1948.

"Watch Gutierrez's response to the UN's request for a reply 'on actions taken within 120 days,'" Laguna suggested. "That's the key to understanding the Ombudsman's panicked response today."

Ironically, after Renato's parents joined impeachment complainants former Sen. Rita Boncavil and her family reside in the United States. But she and her husband spread time at her ancestral home overlooking the Bajau Bay. Her mother, "My daughter, a Tondo high school graduate from Maryknoll at 15, became a member of Kristel Catholic Action in her freshman year at the University of the Philippines. She was picked up by the military and brought to Fort Bonifacio.

"For reasons that were a mere chafing, a football tournament at one of the squatter areas near UP Diliman papers that criticized Imelda Marcos were distributed. My shattered daughter did not even know.

"My husband and I followed the unvoting agents frantically in our car, only to learn the gates of the Fort closed on us. The soldiers denied she was in there. How brazen talent! They kept her incommunicado for three months!

"Every day I stood outside the Fort gates, praying that my daughter's hearing results to someone to slip a note to my daughter, while my husband brought up other kids in school. Then he picked me up to go to Assumption for my job as guidance counselor before he himself went to work.

"When I couldn't sleep nights, I would write letters to Gen. Fidel Ramos, then Secretary of State, Prince Hafiz. Ahh... the tears we lost. God help our young hayan to heal and grow beyond the dictatorship nightmare."

"Tiananmen moments" is a reminder of how those who remembered the Filipino people are coming to the liberation from dictatorship of the whole nation," Bel Cruz writes from Chicago. "It's only in the Philippines where the Marcoses and, of course, Imee Pimee Enrile are idolized by a number of people they once tormented, as ordered by their being elected to public office.

"What should be done to the Marcoses' illgotten gains? Is a watching democracy? Force its return or the corrupt are punished (although some get away especially the politicians here)."

"Inquirer ought to be commended for bringing up these issues, so people will be remind-ed."

* * *

Email: jvmercado@gmail.com

Corporate slavery

GET REAL

Sukhla Cullas-Hontoyo

FROM THE initial stories that came out in the press, one got the impression that the pilots who had left PAL were the bad guys. The media reported from PAL management's side that the pilots were earning oodles of money (by local standards anyway—P500,000 a month was the figure being given for a senior pilot). Their training ("costing millions"), which had made them so highly skilled and highly priced in the first place, had been paid for by the company and yet they left for greener pastures, and with many a by-your-leave or backhand look to boot, leaving behind unpaid debts to the company having the airline in untold subsidized flights, causing the passengers great inconvenience, nobody cares. Then journalists and PR worries my finely greedy, ungrateful, thankless, unpatriotic wretches was the unvarnished message of those tales.

The PAL management, on the other hand, were the good guys (to this version of the story, although the pilots had broken the law and their contracts, which required them to give a six-month notice before leaving, the company was willing to forgive and forget all and would not press any charges or impose any sanctions as long as the pilots would come back. Unfortunately, management was not only not forgiving, but ready to bend backward for the national good.

Unfortunately for the PAL unions, the story was too big to be controlled by the usual methods of "manipulational" journalism and the threat of advertising withdrawal. So, this "bad guys" were able to get their own version across.

In this version, the pilots left because they are low 10G, had treated some of their colleagues, and weren't about to wait for the same treatment to be meted out to them. Specifically, they claim that the cockpit crew, senior and junior, arbitrarily declared "restless flight" and therefore unscheduled terminated, at about the same time that a couple of PAL airplanes were turned over to Air Philippines in their company). The unwanted pilots were then offered jobs at Air Phil, but at markedly lower (reportedly half of their former pay) salaries, because they had lost their seniority and were considered new hires. When even more PAL planes were rumored to be readied for transfer to same company, the pilots scrambled for jobs being offered abroad.

At first, PAL management took pushed this version, and said it found it myself in a TV interview) that the pilots in question were not terminated but merely assigned to Air Phil on a "temporary" basis. But in the face of the first person accounts that were being presented to the public not in Makati thing, and the fact that more and more pilots are planning to join their colleagues abroad, PAL presumably had to change its tune. So that yesterday's headline was "PAL terminates top captains to Air Philippines."

The above example of journalistic bias not seen in be unique. The P500,000 a month salary figure quoted above—which did the rounds, presume that pilots are greedy sons of bitches—is equally ignorant. By the pilots themselves. I talked to three pilots of varying seniority, who shared with me what they each at PAL, and the figures, all in, averaged P350,000. Furthermore, their training, "costing millions," turned out to be P1.5 million, but since this is a figure given in a PAL contract, the pilots feel (first rightly) that it is misleading, for which they are required to give five years of service.

Then there is the matter of the pilots leaving without the requisite notice as claimed by PAL. If they did, it may be because of any or all of those reasons (again, from first person accounts; under similar circumstances): one is that PAL refused to accept their letter of resignation on the grounds that only a 30-day notice was given (per the Labor Code) and not the 180 days specified in their contract. Anyone who reads that contract will see how onerous the terms are. The pilots point out that the 180-day notice requirement is not a law (contrary to what was originally reported in the media, presumably out of ignorance), but is in the contract.

Apparently, if the pilots' services are to be forfeited (and I will take their word over management's any time), PAL does not hesitate in one thing to undermine the pilot's status with his prospective employer (what one may call a negative letter of reference), which has many times resulted in the pilots having to accept jobs with flight crews and ground crews as well. Corporate family? Corporate slavery, more like it.

Livelihood tops the people's agenda

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

For all non-college graduates, the top priority is livelihood. Their second priority depends on level of education: high school graduates and jobs, elementary graduates and inflation, and non-elementary graduates and helping the poor.

For the middle- to upper-SEC classes, the top priority is peace/stabilize, the second is graft and corruption, and the third is livelihood. On the other hand, for the mass D and very poor E classes, the priorities are about the same as those of the masses.

Incidentally, SEC people are much fewer (8.6 percent of the June 2010 sample) than the college graduate population (11.6 percent). If it were not for the very many college graduates among the D or mass, the people's priority for graft and corruption would be even lower.

Priorities by area. It is only in Metro Manila where the top priority is jobs, unlike in the three other major areas, where the top priority is livelihood. Next in Metro Manila are housing, graft and corruption, inflation, and developing the economy with livelihood only in sixth place.

"Jobs" has second priority in the Balance of Luzon, only fifth priority in the Visayas, and only seventh priority in Mindanao. The balances of Luzon priorities are similar to those of the nation.

In the Visayas, second priority is inflation, followed by prices of commodities and graft and corruption.

In Mindanao, second priority is helping farmers, with third priority for general inflation. Medicine prices and graft and corruption are tied for fourth.

Pervasiveness of self-employment. The people's rationale for prioritizing livelihood over jobs is understandable, given their distribution by work status.

In the June SWS-SWS survey of adults, 53.6 percent had work, 13.8 percent were looking for work, and the balance of 32.6 percent were not in the labor force, i.e., neither working nor looking for work. The unemployment rate was a rounded-up 20.5 percent of the roaring age labor force.

Among those at work, 36 percent are self-employed and 7 percent are unpaid family workers. Among the self-employed, the great majority have not registered, or inherited, entrepreneurships. Another 7 percent of those at work are paid employees in informal enterprises, with family-employment is responsible for 34 + 1 + 7 = 46 percent of those at work.

This conventional job-holders are but a minority, consisting of formal private employees (25 percent) and government employees (5 percent).

Only formal private employees put priority on jobs before livelihood in terms for 39 key to lack. Government employees put priority first on livelihood, second on helping farmers and third on graft and corruption. Informal employees put priority first on livelihood, second on inflation, and third on jobs.

The top three priorities of the informal self-employed, and also of the unemployed, are like the informal private jobs. The formal self-employed put priority first on livelihood, second on helping farmers and third on inflation. Those not in the labor force (housewives, students, retired persons) put priority first on livelihood, second on inflation, and third on jobs. For the top group of unpaid workers, first priority was graft and corruption, second was medicine prices, and only third was jobs.

Improving livelihood opportunities and the drivers their livelihoods, not formal jobs. But see colleges more to blame than private can for the heavy traffic?

• • •

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

Education reform through a culture of care

COMMENTARY

Myrna M. Mercado

ADOPTING: Is embracing. Adopting is touching lives.

These are lessons the CFC (Couples for Christ) Education Foundation Inc. (CFCEFI) learned from adopting public schools under the Adopt-a-School Program of the Department of Education, of which CFCEFI is also a service provider. The CFCEFI has adopted Libis Elementary School, F. Bernardo Elementary School, and Bishop Elementary School.

This was also the learning from the values formation seminar for parents and students, which the ministry conducted under the B.A.T.A. (Bayanang Ang Tatapang Alay) Program. B.A.T.A. offers community-based and values-based pre-school programs for children ages 3 to 5 years old (3Ms/4Ms) of the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFCFFL). The fee offer are only housing units to the beneficiaries, most important by these villages also provide featured outing and programs for faith renewal. On the other hand, the 3Ms/4Ms prepared to the graduation of the communities of "informal settlers." Although infrastructure for the 3Ms is limited due to legal restraints, education, health and livelihood programs are in place.

The CFCEFI recently organized a Parents Forum—appropriately titled "The 3Rs Factor"—in Libis Elementary School, in that the barangay of Antonio Makiat Elementary School. In that forum, parents listened to and commented on the insights shared by Regis Bergante of the CFCEFI's Pro-Life Ministry.

Be ready is to touch. Because they touch the learners' lives, teachers need to be equipped, motivated and nurtured. The act is achieved through the ministry's BMACT (Empowerment and Mentoring Program for Recruit, Caregivers, and Teachers') sessions. As shared by the participants, "[t]he sessions reminded us to perform our duties as teachers and ministers well. They enlightened me[] on the kind of teacher I should be. Activities we have been entrusted with, and the discussions helped us touch the ministry our vision urged.

Touch from the parents of public school students, parents from B.A.T.A. centers benefited from the BMACT sessions as well. They expressed their satisfaction with how the sessions enlightened them as to what the called parenting is all about.

This year, CFCEFI, with the help of CFC Bids for Family and Life, will launch a product formation program for the youth in Manila. The program, which will be implemented in the form of monthly club meetings, involves values-formation-based activities as well as chastity forums for pupils in grades 4 to 6.

School adoption merely supports the concept of collaboration. It is a culture which fuses the school community from the practice of blaming and seeing the weaknesses of the parents and teachers. It is a case which advocates productivity through mutual support and cooperation among the school, home and community.

In the learners' lives through school adoption, CFCEFI noted that the way the school regards the parents either encourages or discourages their active involvement.

Parental involvement contributes much to the school atmosphere. When parents decide to be actively involved in their children's education, it means not only that they are concerned about their children's academic performance and achievement, it also means that they must exert such efforts that show their children that they, as parents, have a keen interest in what is happening to them.

Aside from the Adopt-a-School Program-based learning centers, BMACT centers were likewise established for the Cordoba Department of the Interior of Education, Division of Quezon City.

For the B.A.T.A. Program, BMACT sessions are regularly conducted in Bonanza-on-Mission Hill, Cagayan de Oro, Sorsogon, Tarlac, Davao and Batangas, as well as in community-based learning centers in Caloocan and in the provinces of Quezon, Lanao del Sur and Bukidnon.

Myrna M. Mercado (mercadogarcia@gmail.com) is the Couples for Christ Education Foundation Inc.'s area of the Couples for Christ and the Foundation for Worldwide People Power) call for genuine and meaningful education reform.

The 'P-Noy Team'

BUSINESS MATTERS

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas

THE STATE of the Nation Address of President Aquino clearly revealed his management style. It is constantly referring to members of his Cabinet as he presented the action program he intends to implement in the next nine years, he emphasized the primordial importance of team work in his administration. In the language of the newest paradigm in the field of leadership, he is going to "manage by mission."

As an improvement over the obsolete models of "manpower by results" and "management by objectives," management by mission guarantees both the efficiency and the effectiveness of the organization's team in a consistent set of values like integrity, transparency and concern for the underprivileged and the corporate mission. Very important elements of the P-Noy mission are fighting corruption, greater unemployment and eradicating poverty.

That is why President Aquino should just ignore those who accuse him of constantly repeating the mission of his government: fighting corruption, generating employment and eradicating poverty. No matter how they may sound like worthless loud statements, they have to be repeated as often as necessary in order to be internalized in the subconscious of the members of his Cabinet and all those working for the Executive branch of the government. So one criterion in succeeding harder in the private sector for taking advantage of all occasions to refer to the mission of his organization. That is also why way his followers will internalize the abstract concepts contained in a mission statement and their mission from innocuous policies and programs through their creativity, initiative and persevering hard work.

It is now incumbent upon the members of the Cabinet to make sure that everything that they do in their respective departments is in accord with their responsibility to one or more of the key elements of the mission enunciated by their President. In other words, every Cabinet secretary must ask himself or herself how his or her department is contributing to fighting corruption, generating jobs or eradicating poverty. All the other quantifiable goals should be subordinated to these three goals. They are the key objectives. For example, attaining a GDP growth of 7 percent or more annually for the next six years should not be an end in itself. It should be aimed at only to the extent that it will lead to the eradication of poverty and greater quality employment. The same thing can be said about the promotion of exports, which should be geared toward generating employment or earning foreign exchange so as to provide employment to those industries which have to import raw materials, equipment or technology from abroad. Another example is the reduction of the fiscal deficit, which is just an objective in itself. It should only be considered as a means toward either preventing higher inflation (which could make life more difficult for the poor) or making investors—both local and foreign—more confident in putting up employment-generating enterprises.

A particularly example of a secretary who is clearly following the lead of President Aquino by contributing to his proclaimed mission is Trade Secretary Greg Domingo. In all his pronouncements, he is constantly justifying employment generation as the primary objective of his department. He has even claimed to quantify the objective by saying, "I will create jobs for the people over the next six years. As an example of his single-minded focus on job creation, he has made it clear to the semiconductor companies that the new Motor Vehicle Development Program should be crafted so that it promotes the long-term employment growth. The two outstanding parties—the automotive assemblers and the parts OEM (completely built-up unit) importers—will have to demonstrate which of them will do the long-run economic more employment. It cannot be assumed that the establishment can create more jobs because of their backward linkages to auto parts and components manufacturing. Given a set of investments, those importing parts OEM could generate more employment in the retailing, repairs and other services. It must be pointed out that a job is a job, whether in manufacturing or services.

Another example is the determination of Secretary Domingo's team on long-term employment generation is his announcement that a screening system will be put in place by the Department of Trade and Industry to optimize the employment impact of its support programs for small enterprises. In the past, there was the mass populist policy of helping any enterprise regardless of employment generation. If it had so long as its prospect of growing and generating more jobs. Alot of the money would have actually just been given to meet cash transfers to effective point's because the businesses were unsustainable. With the screening to be done, only those that can generate the required number of jobs would be appropriate for DTI's help. The unsustainable ones could very well be more under the purview of the Department of Social Welfare and Development or other agencies geared toward immediate poverty alleviation which, of course, is another very important element of P-Noy's mission.

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas is senior vice president of the University of Asia and the Pacific. His e-mail address is bmvillegas@up.edu.ph.

To keep the fire burning

YOUNG BLOOD

Marbbie Tagalucha

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their concerns? Their dreams? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

WHEN I resigned from my job as a writer, my parents rejoiced. They were not the least surprised that I left, even though just months earlier I had been filled with glee upon learning I bagged the job notwithstanding the daunting challenges it posed. All eighteen, skipping meals... there are just some of the stuff parents' nightmares are made of. My parents' fears were validated by my constant whining that the job held a different kind of fit.

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It seemed like the job and I were set for life, but my honeymoon ended two years. I wrote and doubled as a fashion assistant for two publications, taking away time that could have been spent with loved ones. But when I set that drawback aside, I loved what I did. My job provided endless challenges, and I reveled in the opportunity to hone my writing skills.

Outside of work, it was a different story. To humor everyone, I took the advice to go to graduate school, only to flop. My family showed no effort in masking their disappointment: my boyfriend, who had proudly boasted to all his friends that I would be a lawyer someday even though he knew I was planning to start a career in writing, turned cold on me and soon just disappeared. My friends poked fun at what I did, mocking it as a job that only a few could do well. Early on the road to becoming lawyer, I would tell them I was willing for a women's lifestyle magazine, and they would wonder aloud what worthwhile contribution I was making to society. How were my efforts helping to alleviate world hunger, they would ask, or bring political strides, or heal cultural rifts, or advance world peace?

These people did not even bother to read my work. Even my job suffered. I became more listless every day, cast out in one moment of weakness I decided to give it up.

In my family, going corporate or working in a government office was the only way to go. To them, what I wanted to do was a joke, and they told me so to my face a couple of times. My mother complained about having a "jeunlat" for a daughter, as she approached my spunky aunt to knock some sense into my head.

My aunt—nude sided before 40, break from marriage annulment proceedings, and a single mom of two Sir. Boyfriend since their daughters—told me frankly, "Being a writer is not something to be proud of. I had dreams of being cum laude at the advantages of having a little affixed to my name, with 'Atty.' being the love of them. To her, writing was only a tool for advancement in a "useful" field. She cited a friend who was a department secretary and occupied a "good place in society" because he ran very well.

Out she would hold this friend who, at 30, is not in many years. The point was that there's a lot of value in the desire. But said explains, "We're in love and he can afford to marry." When I asked her what she would do with her degree in Political Science, she said, "I'm simply the domestic type," and gave me a smile.

Women seem to be in very competitive spirits these days, vieing against men in the corporate field or competing against each other in dinner party aroma-get habitat. If a woman wishes to become a homemaker, what is wrong with that? I grew up watching my parents, especially my mom, lead more time for me. My mother was a boss, and when her line of agency closed, she was a housewife for a while, and it was then that I came to her looking most beautiful. It was a pleasure to have a mother around. She was and I promised to grow up as mothers first, with our career ambitions coming second, when the time came.

I refuse to accept that one works to live for that means barely living. The average worker complains about his boss, his salary, even those who get paid more than they should. There are those who get paid more than they should. They just find out the table. And there are those who have more complicated problems, like living the power, recognition, endlessly seeking the approval of everyone, from neighbors to in-laws.

I still we could reject the notion of working to live, at least for the youth. I have friends who are doctors, but I also have friends content pursuing graduates. Most of them—for their parents' chose the course to enjoy the good life through remittances. Many of them have callings and potentials for some other careers, and I think they are wasting their time.

I believe that if one is happy with what he does, whatever or wherever it may be, he will thrive. Unless you dream of swimming in an infinite pool of dollar bills, I don't think everyone is cut out to become a millionaire. Not everyone truly wants it anyway. People see money in different ways. Some see it as security, happiness or fulfillment. But I have seen people who found all these in leading a helping hand as a social worker, or in leading a healthy child to school. It isn't always about success or title.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Edmund Phelps linked stalling employment rates, job dissatisfaction and poor work performance to the attitude people brought to their work. Instead of seeing employment as a means to a comfortable retirement, he emphasized the importance of enjoying employment as the "fulfillment of a goal, the journey of a task."

I mention this because it serves as a valuable reminder to those who are doing what they love, to those who don't, and to those who probably don't remember. If we remind ourselves of what is good about the work we do, why we want to do it, and why our work be more pleasurable and definitely more rewarding?

Since I was little, I dreamed of becoming a writer because I wanted to become better at writing. I wanted to become better at writing because I wished to share ideas, whether they were mine or not. I have been inspired by the writings of those who came before me, and I think we all have, some of us remain a river of making much needed improvements we have imbibed someone's ideas put to writing or someone's thoughts from perhaps a different time or place that ignited something in our hearts. This is how I wish to contribute to the world. I want to become a better human I want to write better, so that I can share ideas with people, and keep the fire burning.

Marbbie Tagalucha, 25, is a writer for a women's fashion magazine.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, zip and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

LETTERS

P-Noy, too, must do his part for media

THE NATIONAL Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) announces the call of President Aquino for media to police its own ranks, help clarify issues, raise the level of public discourse and apply fairness and truthfulness to reporting.

The NUJP and the overwhelming majority of media organizations and journalists in the country have certainly pursued these values in our daily work and in our campaigns. We will continue to do so.

In reminding us on government, the media will continue to maximize the presumption and administration and defend the constitutional right to reporting the truth to the public.

While we heed the President's call, his government must also ensure a more secure environment for journalists as they do not lose their jobs, if not their lives, in the performance of their work.

If the Aquino administration will be true to its promises of reforms, it should ensure unhampered access of information to the public so that journalists can do their jobs better.

We are disappointed that in his State of the Nation Address, the President made no mention of the Freedom of Information Bill, a long delayed legislation to ensure transparency of government transactions, which was shamelessly shelved by the last Congress.

We did not hear, either, in the State address or congressional statements from the President enacting justice for victims of the Ampatuan massacre and decisively punishing an end to the continued killings of journalists.

The President was also silent on massive unemployment in the media industry, low wages of employees and worsening contractual and remuneration woes of regular employees.

—NESTOR BURGOS JR.,
chair, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, nujp@ymail.com

Chavez denies he was a Sigma Rho scholar

ON JULY 16, Noel Cruz spoke here his conviction in support of the stance of Tim Yap on my libel case against some of its partners. I'm quoted somewhat the affidavit of a certain Victor Fernandez which was attached to the counter-affidavit of respondent Antonio Valencia. I requested Valencia give me response to the quoted statements made by Fernandez. That never have passed. Cruz obviously does not want to print my response. So please publish the following statement from my Counsel dated Reply Affidavit (which I have shortened):

[...] In 1985, when I became solicitor general, Fernandez approached me to ask for one of his brothers in-law. I told him I will study the case as the matter but that I cannot make unqualified commitment to help. Subsequently, I was duly appointed to the Supreme Court. Fernandez was furious with me because I did not want to help. He stood up, left my office in a huff but only after telling me: "Mga utak kuto, Frank."

[...] In Notre time in 1992/1993, as counsel PCGG chairman Herd a disbarment case against me. Then Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon assigned to Fernandez as IBP hearing officer. It was presidential that a heavenly head informed me that Fernandez was formulating his resolution for my disbarment, especially upon the behest of Carpio Villanueva. I then invited for his inhibition.

[...] Fernandez ought to be ashamed of himself when he says that I "would never have financed my law school" never a use for Villanueva. This is the very first time—after 43 years ago—that the leaders about Fernandez and Valencia allegedly helping me financially while I was in law school has been relayed to me. Its authority was given to, or received by, me.

[...] Fernandez is brazenly lying when he says I received scholarship funds from Sigma Rho fraternity, monthly allowances, book allowance and dorm expenses from my third to fourth year at the UP College of Law. Such fraternal scholarship from the Sigma Rho would obviously have surpassed the most generous scholarship then available to law students, the Cullen Kilgallen Law Scholarship. There was no such thing as a Sigma Rho scholarship, much less with the features described by Fernandez. In my third and fourth years at UP Law school, I had a generous scholarship from a philanthropist from Bacolod—a one-of-a-kind open-minded to send home. This was why Hilarion Cruz could hardly embrace hosting a single law book because I was patronizing exclusively my siblings.

—FRANCISCO I. CHAVEZ,
[redacted]@[redacted].com

Santiago's loyalty is to nation, not to any party

THIS IS in response to Amando Doronila's Aug. 4 column in which he referred to Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago as "an independent party member" and that her loyalty is "unstable and unpredictable."

Senator Santiago always ran as a candidate under her own political party, the People's Reform Party that consisted of talented persons and issues has been constantly independent from party financial the influence of whoever is in power. Whatever opinion Senator Santiago may suppose, she is always on the side of the Constitution and the rule of law. Her loyalties are to the Constitution and the Filipino people. Furthermore, Senator Santiago believes that the relationship of the three branches should be determined through merit and fitness.

—TOM M. TELESAS,
public affairs and media relations officer,
Office of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago,
miriam@senate.gov.ph

Pensions credited in July

WE NEED to reply to the letter sent by Rem. Arnulfo P. Cortez of Sitio City (INQUIRER, 7/30/10).

Indeed, letter Cortez requested his concern regarding his pension months for the months of May and June 2010. Based on our records, Cortez' pension accruals for these months were credited to his pension Land July 6.

—ELIAS M. VALENCIANA,
vice president,
Public Relations and Communication Office,
Government Service Insurance System

Corruption and Christianity

IF WE steal small, you land in jail. If you steal big, you immediately qualify to run as a candidate for an elective government position. And when in government, if you steal bigger you are elected president. Corruption is a big problem. In the meantime, look at the ongoing investigation of crimes committed by public officials. The investigation is not helping down by policemen or by NBI agents, but by fellow officials in or out of the same occupy group.

Usually, the investigation goes on endlessly, except for one beautiful development. Via the priesthood industry, the criminals under investigation are forgiven by God for their sins and crimes. This is otherwise known as Christianity. Christianity is a way of life in the Philippines.

—POCE TEJERA,
pocho@yahoo.com

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Stormy weather for Pagasa chief; Nilo Prisco sacked

From page A1

In the interim, Ms Aquino named Science Undersecretary Graciano Yumul as officer in charge of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Ms Aquino said a new Pagasa chief would be named later on from the ranks of career officials of Pagasa.

"He (Nilo) will be returned to the career executive service officer) pool," the President said.

No explanation

The Malacañang reached Nilo by phone but the veteran forecaster declined to comment on his reassignment.

"(Nilo) should have taken seriously the fact that (he) were not with the match," Ms Aquino told reporters in Mabalacat.

"He never really bothered to explain," the President said.

Ms Aquino said Pagasa must have information that Nilo would have considered data from other weather forecasts, such as those of the United States and Japan, which is nearer the Philippines.

Pagasa employees 'saddened'

On the eve of Ms Aquino's announcement, the Pagasa received two text messages from anonymous senders grumbling about Nilo's removal from Pagasa.

The senders, who identified themselves merely as Pagasa employees, said they were "saddened" by Nilo's ouster. They claimed his replacement by a "pseudo-meteorologist" was disturbing to the agency's weather forecasters.

The messages did not identify the supposed "pseudo-meteorologist."

"The forecasters are sad because Pagasa is already suffering from a brain drain and now Dr. Nilo has been removed and replaced by a pseudo-meteorologist who has done nothing but create trouble in Pagasa," one message said in Filipino.

The message said 24 Pagasa forecasters had left the agency for greener pastures in the past 10 years.

Aquino reprimand

Ms Aquino reprimanded Pagasa officials, including Nilo, during a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council after Barangay Isabela of Metro Manila in the second week of his administration.

It was during Nilo's term that the national government allocated budgets for the purchase of Doppler radars that can monitor typhoons, the presence of rain is weather disturbance would bring. Years after the allocations were made, the radars were still being installed.

Pagasa is an agency attached to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Pagasa prediction

Pagasa had predicted that Barangay—the first typhoon to hit the country this year—would make landfall on the morning of July 13 at the boundary of Aurora and Isabela, and cross northwestward.

At 5 p.m. that day, Pagasa revised its prediction and said Barangay was expected to hit land in between the Aurora province and northern Quezon and strike Isabela and Ilocos directly.

In its last advisory at 11 p.m. on that day, Pagasa said Barangay had weakened after hitting northern Quezon. It placed Metro Manila under Signal No. 2 and said the typhoon would cross Central Luzon during the night.

Typhoon's fury

At around midnight, the eye of the typhoon passed by Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal and Bataan, with a wind speed of 95 kph. It ripped off roofs up and toppled trees and posts.

The next day, July 14, power outages darkened the capital and nearby areas.

In his first disaster management meeting in Camp Aguinaldo, Mr. Aquino ordered the weather bureau be failing to predict that Barangay would directly hit Metro Manila.

Nilo explained that the bureau's equipment allowed it to only issue bulletins every six hours. He said Pagasa's telecommunication system needed to be modernized for easy and swift transfer of data from field stations to the bureau's main center in Quezon City.

He said that reconnecting data transmission would require a budget of P1.6 billion.

Besides killing more than 100 people, Barangay left 71 others injured and 92 missing. Damage to agriculture and infrastructure was placed at P678 million.

Yumul background

Yumul was appointed undersecretary for research and development of the DOST in January 2008 by then President Macapagal-Arroyo.

As undersecretary, Yumul supervises research and development institutes and grants-in-aid programs. He also chairs the National Committee on Disaster Mitigation of the Philippines and serves as program director of the Technology Innovations for Countercivilization.

Yumul earned his bachelor of science degree in geology from the University of the Philippines Diliman, and his master and doctorate degrees in geology from the University of Tokyo.

He was formerly associate dean for administration of the UP College of Science. *With reports from Christine L. Avenir and Anne-rose de Guzman, Inquirer Research*

P-Noy on Pangarap: This is now my prison

From page A1

street in Quezon City, but that he had to yield to the say-so of those in charge of his personal security.

"For my own safety, I agree [There is none my private]," he laughingly said of his official residence.

No more singing in rain

Mr. Aquino said his sister Pilar Abellada sent him a text message: "I feel that you'll rather stay at Times...Before it's any later (or) you (Mom will take care of you)."

Asked if he had gotten used to being President, he said he "thought so" until one of his brothers-in-law told him that the official ballot would all go away, but not quite soon.

"Seventy-something months to go," he quoted his brother-in-law as saying.

As though to illustrate his busier as President, Mr. Aquino said he used to enjoy rain because it cooled an otherwise humid night.

"Now, I have to think where they rain is going. Are the people there ready? Would they suffer from floods?" he said.

In inaugurating the President to and from Malacañang, his security escorts are prohibited from using sirens and blinkers to ignore road lights.

"I moved to Bahay Pangarap previously to reduce their stress level," Mr. Aquino said.

An aspirin just had his aides' facial expression would instantly change whenever his detector's engine started.

"Tiger took aspirin," he said.

Vulnerable

Since the President's inauguration, his convoy has definitely stopped at red lights and shunned the VIP practice of coasting lane, making him vulnerable to an attack on the road.

His staying at Bahay Pangarap is deemed to address security concerns because it requires only a short drive from there to the Palace and back.

"There are only so many routes from Times Street to Malacañang," Mr. Aquino said. "That's one of the factors—the predictability of routes."

Asked how often he'd sleep at Bahay Pangarap, he said he was not saying in order to keep potential attackers guessing.

He also said he had had his telephone lines checked for bugs, apparently to prevent his conversations from getting embargoed.

Bahay Pangarap stands directly opposite Malacañang across the Pasig River.

3 more bedrooms

It has been renovated to include three more bedrooms in addition to the existing master bedroom.

Located near the presidential golf course, Bahay Pangarap is described as having a "resort ambience," complete with a swimming pool and a Balinese-style garden.

Before announcing his choice for his official residence, Mr. Aquino was said to have also considered the Ipilapil Mansion, where he stayed during the presidency of his mother, the late Corazon Aquino, and the Premier Guest House.

Dinner with friends

The President said he had a few friends over for dinner on his first night at Bahay Pangarap.

"I slept late," he said.

A source close to him told the Inquirer that only his security detail and two members of his family—his brother Kris and sister Pinky—were with him in Bahay Pangarap.

Luistro: It's go ...

From page A1

level and five years in the secondary level, according to Education Secretary Br. Armin Luistro.

The new program would roll out a simplified and a competency-driven curriculum that would produce professionally competent and skilled high school graduates, Luistro said on Wednesday.

"Our plan is not just to add years to the current education cycle but to conduct an actual revision of the subjects/curriculum and to come up with a more simplified new basic education program focused on enhancing the competencies of our high school graduates," he said in the process membership assessing and rewards might of the College Based Organization, Coalition for Senior Education, held at the Cebu City Sports Club.

About 130 educators and quality education advocates applauded the department's plans.

Luistro explained that senior high school graduates would be able to pursue higher learning, enter the world of work or even undertake short courses in technical-vocational fields.

"In other countries, where a 12-year education cycle is being followed, a high school diploma is already a ticket to finding respectable employment. If we do the same, college education will become more affordable to many of our high school graduates," Luistro said.

Quoting the 12-year basic education program would address issues like access to education, implementation as well as information technology related issues.

"I don't want a chaotic kind of curriculum, that's why last is be reviewed and reengineered," he said.

Luistro also lauded plans of integrating foreign language education into the Spanish to give students the edge to work in non-English-speaking countries.

Perennial problems

He said the DepEd was not blind to the perennial problems of the growing number of academic dropouts, backlogs, workbooks and classrooms and they would try to resolve these issues in a manageable time.

He also said the DepEd would address the problems of class, room shortage. The previous administration had said the country needs 66,000 classrooms but the figure had risen to 66,000.

"We will have to confirm those figures with our regional offices so we can allocate the proper budget," Luistro said.

The DepEd also canvassed the budget for private school subsidy program (PSSP) of P1 million. The program assists selected students to private schools with limited facilities.

NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
BLISS NCR Building, NEC Bonifacio St.,
Makati, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
MAJIKA ENTERPRISES, INC. Unit 1 Ground Floor, Majika Bldg. EDSA Kamuning Terminal, Makati City	Timothy Rodriguez Lagunsad	Technical Consultant
ISLAND MATTRESS, INC. 37 Cambridge Corner Bldg., 700 Tordesillas cor. Valdez St., Makati City	Mark Stephen Galvan Leuenberger	Consultant
Kenmore Philippines Corp. 3rd Floor L. Tan Enterprise Center Aguirre Ave. cor. Wack-Wack Road, Cubao, Quezon City	Min Seung Woo Korean	Finance Manager
Hanwha Corp. 23 Samsung Bldg., 191 Jr. Gil Puyat St. Paranaque, Manila Luzon Area, City	Kang Moon Seok Korean	Marketing Assistant
Philippine Cultural College, Inc. 1200 Aurora Blvd. Quezon Ave., Cubao, Manila	Xiaojun Wang Chinese	Mandarin Language Teacher
Philippine Cultural College, Inc. 1200 Aurora Blvd. Quezon Ave., Cubao, Manila	Zhao Jin Chinese	Mandarin Language Teacher
Philippine Cultural College, Inc. 1200 Aurora Blvd. Quezon Ave., Cubao, Manila	Yaping Ren Chinese	Mandarin Language Teacher
Philippine Cultural College, Inc. 1200 Aurora Blvd. Quezon Ave., Cubao, Manila	Chunzhi Huang Chinese	Mandarin Language Teacher
Sanyo Inc. GF Zaragoza Bldg., Juan Luna Avenue Drive, Brgy. San Antonio, Zone One, Binondo, Manila	Junichiro Kato Japanese	Marketing Manager
A.Soriano Air Liners, Inc. 29 Polaris Cortes, 840 Antonio St., Poblacion, Makati City	Tan Hongqiao Korean	IT Manager
Chinese International School, Inc. Jose Abad Santos Road, Salitran III, Dasmariñas, Cavite City	Kelly Philip Jones British	Headmaster
Asian Institute Computer Services Unit 2F Unimart Bldg., Pio Del Pilar St. Makati City	Yosuke Tokai Japanese	Consultant
Sidney Consultancy and Management Inc. GF No. 107 Tordesillas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Tohshichi Matsumoto Japanese	Consultant
Lotus Technologies Inc. Unit 1, 2nd Floor, Cityland Condominium 2, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Kanwal Gurjal Indian	Consultant
Unilever Sepsa Philippines, Inc. Unilever House, Metropolitan Avenue, Bel-Air 1, Makati City	Hardeep Kalyanpur Indian	Software Process Manager/ Systems Control Officer
Aquamarketers, Inc. GF Cybergate Tower, Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City	Shaun Tong Chinese	Senior Vice-President, Marketing
Lucas Enterprises, Inc. GF Aquamarine Corporate Tower, Pio Del Pilar St., Makati City	Isabelle Amanda Indonesian	Customer Support Staff
Prosperity Bean International Manufacturing Inc. GF Palacios Bldg., Roxas Blvd. cor. Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila	Pheng Kay Khar/ Lai Chanda Indian	Treasurer
Sidec Filipinas Philippines, Inc. 20F Solid Bank Corporate Center, Alfaro cor. Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Andrew Fukutaro Ogasawara	President
Nanjin Heavy Industries & Engineering Norway, Ltd. Unit 1109 Antonio Palmares, North Bonifacio, Taguig City	Wuanyang Yuan Chinese	Mechanical Manager
Nanjin Heavy Industries & Engineering Norway, Ltd. Unit 1 Antonio Palmares, North Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City	Wang Xiaochao Chinese	Operation Manager
Nec Teleservices (Asia-Pacific), Inc. MPIC Communications Center, Ayala Avenue St., Salcedo Village	Mark Daniel Dillon American	Director, International Support Operation Program
E-World Technical Institute, Inc. 2nd Avenue St., West Fairview, Quezon City	Wolfgang Kiki German	Technology Officer
E-World Technical Institute, Inc. 2nd Avenue St., West Fairview, Quezon City	Yang Jiaxun Chen Lanfei (Cheryl) Chinese	Technology Officer
Bay View Technologies, Inc. 2nd Hydrology Road, KCBC Plaza, 1870 Ayala Ave., Bonifacio Global City	Liang Zhuang Chinese	Chinese Customer Support Associate
Bay View Technologies, Inc. 2nd Hydrology Road, KCBC Plaza, 1870 Ayala Ave., Bonifacio Global City	Chuhan Lee Taiwanese	Chinese Customer Support Training Supervisor
Bay View Technologies, Inc. 2nd Hydrology Road, KCBC Plaza, 1870 Ayala Ave., Bonifacio Global City	Yaqian Zhou Chinese	Payments Associate
Bridgestone Limited - Philippine Branch GF Yuchengco Makati Bldg., Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City	Shuichiro Tsukagi Pat Velasco Japanese	Process Specialist
Unilever Philippines EDSA-Kaki Town Field Bldg., Barangay Ibayo, Tipas, Taguig City	Akihiro Kano Alma Dayrit Japanese	Human Resources Manager
The Thomson Corporation Pte. Ltd. - Philippine Branch 45 Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Sophie Ho Chinese	Head, Account Manager
The Thomson Corporation Pte. Ltd. - Philippine Branch 45 Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Yi Hsiao Lin Chinese	Head, Global Sales
Philippine Air Terminals Co., Inc. Ste. 201 Building, Domestic Road, Pasay City, Manila Site	Shingo Ito Japanese	Consultant
Alliance Financial of Manila, Inc. 6th Floor Yuchengco Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Sabina Dawani Pakistani	Consultant
Lexicom, Et Inclusive Unit 01 Mezzanine Floor, Cityland Shaw Tower, Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	Dae Young Kim Korean	President/CEO

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAMONTE
Regional Director

ERRATUM

In the advertisement published on July 31, 2010, the nationality of Mr. Carlos Miguel Soliman Lasso of Megawater Construction Corporation should have been French and not as published.

MIAMI'S Fil-Am coach Erik Spoelstra (second from left) and NBA Asia's Edward Winata are flanked by Department of Science and Technology's Dr. Mario Capanzana and Unicef's Vanessa Tobias.

Miami mentor Spoelstra in town

By Jasmine W. Payo

FORA STEER at least, Miami Heat coach Erik Spoelstra gave his coach off the premiere that comes with mentoring the NBA champ's most celebrated team mates of Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and LeBron James.

Spoelstra, the first Filipino-American to coach any professional sports league in America, arrived in Manila Thursday night to focus on his other passion before plunging into a season full of high expectations.

"The game of basketball has been good to me that I want to give back any way I can," Spoelstra said in a press conference yesterday in the Shangri-La Hotel in Ortigas City. Pasig City.

"My other passion are my heritage and my family. I'm able to reconnect to so many family members here. To be able to do all those things in one week really makes it a very special time."

Spoelstra, whose mother Nina Culiao traces her roots to San Pablo, Laguna, will be in the country for a week to spearhead the first NBA Fit Week, the largest wellness program held by the league in the Asia Pacific.

"We're here this week to promote the message that we need to lead a more healthy and balanced lifestyle," said Edward Winata, science director of NBA Asia's business development and marketing partnerships.

The 39-year old Spoelstra will conduct basketball clinics and interact with fans in activities at SM North Edsa this weekend. He will hold training sessions with players of Far Eastern U and La Salle on Tuesday, attend a program at the Araneta Coliseum on Wed. nesday and give a special clinic in San Pablo.

"My heritage is very important to me," said Spoelstra. "And I want this story to be told because it will open doors to a lot of people, that if they have a dream, they can achieve, plus it, no matter where they come from."

But for this season, Spoelstra hopes to fulfill his NBA championship dream with his ex-proteges, dubbed as "The Three Kings."

"I know how a big responsibility it is and I take it very seriously," he said.

Mangahas lifts Mapua in OT

Cards nip Blazers, vault to 3rd

By Cedrif P. Tupas

ALLAN MANGAHAS lired a personal-season-high 35 points, including four of his team's six points in the extra period, as Mapua squeezed past St. Benilde, 65-61, in overtime and vaulted to sole third ponership in the 86th NCAA basketball tournament at the FIBOB Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Cardinals tightened the defensive screw in overtime while drowning offensive firepower from the 2008 Rookie of the Year Mangahas to secure their fifth win in seven outings that silenced Benilde to move past idle Jose Rizal U (4-2).

"It was all about defense," said Mapua coach Chito Victolero, whose squad is one victory away from matching their win total last season.

"If we want to get to the next level, we have to defend well, and we did that today."

Later, Emilio Aguinaldo College climbed out of an early double-digit hole and tallied more misery on Perpetual Help with a 74-60 victory.

Emilito Tenga pumped in 27 points and Claude Cabo finished with 13 and 12 rebounds for the Generals, who rose to 2-4 and forged a three-game tie for fifth with Lyceum and Arellano.

"I'm glad we were steady in the second half and playing as a team," said EAC coach Norman Jay. "We were there down in the second half."

The Altas led 20-11 early in the second period but lost steam in the fourth quarter, where they were held to just eight points.

Ekenson Ibarra's 10-point performance also played big for the Cardinals, grabbing a season-high 21 rebounds.

Mapua found the turnovers in overtime, one of which led to Mangahas' triple with 1:50 remaining that gave the Cardinals a 63-61 cushion.

The Blazers still threatened at 63-61 after Mark de Guzman converted on a fastbreak layup with 1:13 seconds left, but Ibarra restored the two-point cushion with a free throw split.

Box scores

(Game 1)

ARNOLD Dangerous of Perpetual Help blocks a driving Emilio Nangahas of Emilio Aguinaldo College in yesterday's game. AUGUSTO SALINO

Lady Pirates barge into Shakey's V-L q'finals

JESUM RECOVERED from a sluggish second set to pummel Perpetual 15, 25-15, 23-25, 23-16, 25-13, Thursday night and clinch a quarterfinal berth in the Shakey's V-League Season 7 second conference at the FIBOB Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Game playmaker Mary Jean Balse and Dahlia Cruz pooled 35 points to spark the Lady Pirates, who wrapped up their elimination-round campaign with a 4-2 record.

More importantly, the victory allowed the Lady Pirates to join San Sebastian Recoletos, Adamson, Far Eastern U and Ateneo in the semi-round.

"We achieved our initial goal of reaching the quarterfinals," said Lyceum coach Paul Lorino, whose squad had a 98-78 edge on attack points. "Now, we can focus on making the semifinals."

The Lady Bulldogs fell to 2-4, but still hold the inside track for the last quarterfinal berth over fellow newcomer Perpetual Help, which dropped to 1-5 after losing to the Eastern U bravehearts sets earlier.

Except for a solid performance in the second set, National U couldn't get anything going as scorching Ateneo buckled struggled.

Solomon had just 12 excellent sets on 37 attempts, having never done her Lyceum counterpart Nicole Tabuel-asis, who completed 40 on 184 sets.

Balse finished with 28 points on 18 hits and got solid support from Cruz and Joy Cases, who contributed 13 and 14 points, respectively. Jamie Weiss and Christine Casanovas also contributed for 19 points for the Lady Pirates.

Mervie Shagnea scored 14 points and Marose Hegnacianus tallied 11 for the Lady Bulldogs, who could clinch a quarterfinal berth with a win over Ateneo on Sunday.

ELYE Eri-ta (left) and Krista Escanola in the game against UST. MANUEL.QUEZADA@INQUIRER.COM

Jittery start for Manila softbelles

TEAM MANILA received a quick reality check in its debut Thursday in the 2010 Big League Softball World Series at Meerderberg Park in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Stranded as the best Philippine team ever assembled for the prestigious women tournament, the Manila softbelles got its campaign off on the wrong foot, absorbing a 2-1 defeat to US General.

"Some of the girls were sluggish because of jetlag and they couldn't hit," Philippine Sports commissioner and Little League VP district administrator Jolly Gomez, who is in Kalamazoo, said in an e-mail message to the Inquirer.

Liz Hamming blasted a home run off Manila hurler Mercedes Bolleza in the second inning and Trinity Holt belted an RBI single on a ball mount on Crystal Jones' in the ninth frame of Michigan, grabbed a 2-0 lead in the fourth inning.

The Filipinos finally got on the scoreboard in the sixth inning when Marilyn Fenemore doubled and reached home on an RBI double by Melanie Miscamping.

The losing...and the RP rally...ended in the next frame. Bolleza, was put out when she hit a groundball, leaving Miscamping stranded in second base.

Currently Sara Olivenga entered the last three Manila batters.

The Filipinos begin their uphill climb in the single-round event with a doubleheader today Manila time (3:30 Kalamazoo at 2:30 p.m. Friday Gomezrtes in Manila) and 1:30 Utica at 6 p.m. Cedrif P. Tupas

Usual favorites head Aboitiz golf field

By Mhang B. Castillo

WITH CAMELS Cassi not playing this time, the leading threesome that got disqualified in the final round of the last ICTSI tournament seems as the players to watch in the Aboitiz Cebu Country Club invitational outing off on Wednesday.

Elmer Salandez, Michael Bonfanga and Jovic Pagunsan had the top three places in the Del Monte Championship in Bukidnon all but secured only to be disqualified for a rules infraction on the 18th green.

The disastrous finish enabled Cassi to win his first ICTSI leg, although he would have ended up two strokes off the winning total that Salandez would have turned in.

Salandez, the reigning Philippine Open champion, and Bonfanga are expected to contend again, although Pagunsan is a hot choice following his big showing on the Asian Tour.

IN FINE FORM: Jovic Pagunsan

Pagunsan missed getting into a playoff for the Shenzhen Open title by one stroke a couple of days ago, and the 21-year-old from Bacolod is among the top 10 players in the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters in Malaysia after two rounds yesterday.

Salvador, on the other hand, has burned from his mistake in Del Monte and wanted to come out better in Cebu.

"I learned my lesson and I will settle back," Salvador said. "But will never happen again."

Cassi, a former RP Open winner, is overseeing the campaign of several ICTSI amateur campaigners in the United States.

Aboitiz Equity Ventures has linked up with the organizing Philippine Golf Tournaments, Inc. (PGTI) to stage this 15th leg of the ICTSI Philippine Golf Tour at the client Cebu Country Club's course in the heart of the city.

A total of 79 year will convene the starting tee time on Wednesday with Angelo Que and Tour leg winners Jeremias Mendiola, Jhun Pena, Marvic Hamandas and Benjie Magada also in the field.

CHEERS! Inquirer Libre and the National Cheerleading Championship will team up again for the holding of the country's biggest cheerleading competition. Renewing the partnership recently at the Inquirer offices in Makati City are (from left) Libre sports author Dennis Erna, editor in chief Chito dela Vega, head coach and national director Paulo Dela Llana-Nunag, Inquirer Publications, Inc. VP for operations Amelita C. Alcantara, NCC president and CEO Carlen Valdes III, and PR and marketing director Maria Aimee Bolay. CLIFFORD ARANETA

FROM BASKETBALL TO BASEBALL: The Manila Sharks with Harbour Centre owner Hilton Ramos (standing, sixth from left), CPO Edwin Quiroz and team manager Richard Cruz.

Sharks adopt a win formula

By Cedrif P. Tupas

WEST TIDE sweep of its baseball squad, Manila Sharks, in the Dublin Dream baseball Philippines series til recently, the winning machine of Harbour Centre is no longer confined to the baseball court.

Applying the same mantra that keyed Harbour Centre's phenomenal run of seven straight titles in the Philippine Basketball League, the Sharks reaped years of frustration with a 2-1 victory over the Cebu Dolphins in the rubber match of their best-of-three finals series at the Mike Marcelino Baseball Stadium in Taguig.

"Our owner wants the same result as," Harbour Centre owner Hilton Ramos said of the title-clinching victory. "It's time to have players who refuse to lose."

It was Ramos's first title victory as majority stockholder.

Ramos's team now awaits the Manila title, the 2007 SEA Games gold and the Asian Basketball League crown early this year.

Ace hurler Jorgen Sobilo allowed only two hits and one run in a complete game bubble shutout win Thursday to lead the Sharks.

"My dream in this season," said Manila coach Boyd Fabuang, whose squads used the opener, 5-1, to foot the next, 9-10).

Sharks manager Richard Cruz thanked Ramos and Harbour Center CEO Edwin Quiroz for their all-out support to the team.

Tams target 7th straight

FEU battles sweet-shooting UST; NU faces UP

By Jasmine W. Payo

A WEEK after playing what coach Glenn Capacio described as the Eastern University's best game yet, the Tamaraws shoot for a seven-game sweep of the first round in the 73rd UAAP men's basketball tournament today.

The Tamaraws, whose perfect 6-0 record is anchored mainly on second-year guard Bill Guerta, hustle the streaky shooting University of Santo Tomas Tigers at 4 p.m. at the FEU-Diliman Y-Gymnasium floor.

"We have to control our defense up to the three-point area," said Capacio, who cited the Tigers' penchant for triples as the Tamaraws' main concern.

"It won't be easy. UST has been playing well. I think they're the No. 1 team, percentage-wise, in three-point shooting. We have to play good defense at the perimeter."

National U, toting a 2-4 record, also aims to wrap up its first-round assignment with a victory against the winless University of the Philippines at 2 p.m.

The Tamaraws are coming off a 74-69 triumph over the Adamson Falcons last Sunday, where the sharpshooting unveiled the highest shooting clip in seven years at 57.4 percent.

Another victory today will match the Tamaraws' 7-0 start in 2005, the same year NU won its last championship.

At the other end of the standings are the winless Maroons, who absorbed their sixth straight setback, a 75-53 lopsided decision, against defending champion Ateneo last Thursday.

A UP loss will duplicate the Maroons' embarrassing 0-7 first-round record in 2007, the year they dropped all 14 elimination games.

FEU COACH Glenn Capacio hopes that the Tamaraws, led by JR Cawaling (left) and Aldrich Ramos (right) clamp down hard on the gunners of Santo Tomas, including sophomore gun, Yeng.

Aside from Guerta leading the Tamaraws scene in their last game, Aldrich Ramos delivered with 13 points, seven rebounds and two blocks, while Cameroonian Pipo Ntamack posted a double-double of 11 points and 10 boards.

The Tigers, nursing fifth with three wins and the same number of losses, managed to stay competitive behind their crew's sizzling shooting led by Clark Bautista.

UST coach Pido Jarencio, though, expects Jeric Fortuna and Jeric Teng to rebound after both shot only two points each in their Sunday outback, 61-52, against La Salle.

The Bulldogs, meanwhile, aim to recover from back-to-back losses, the last an 82-63 rout against the Blue Eagles.

RP runners eye better finishes in 2nd QCIM

By Ronina S. Acosta

THE COUNTRY'S best long-distance runners will go all out this year to improve on their performances when the Quezon City International Marathon holds its second edition on Dec. 5.

Cross-country ace, the best Filipino finisher in the inaugural race held Oct. 18, 2009, finished three minutes behind 42K winner Hidenori Kigawitsuka when the event was known, 30 minutes and eight seconds to bag the top prize of P500,000.

Female champion Doreen Kitaka prevailed in 2:56.09.

Samuel Tuno Too and Daniel Chirchir, who are also both Kenyans, placed second and third in 2:30:26 and 2:38.49, respectively. Three unregistered runners were denied junior cash and ticket champion Daniel Borinas, wound up fourth with a 2:51.45 clocking.

Naked, who won his third Mile Marathon crown a week before, was fifth overall.

Allmar Tabinas-led Israeli-based Brooks Runners with a time of 3:32.39 Ruth Sahal and Tolentino ranked the P250,000-each.

Tabinas, who finished 12th of the Philippines Inc. Runners, which is organizing the QCIM anew, expect twice the number of the 6,000 participants who joined the previous race this year as Quezon City's 70th founding anniversary celebrations. There will also be races in 5K, 10K and 21K.

"We are hoping that more runners will be involved this year to support and promote healthy lifestyle, exercise, sports, environmental protection, grooming and tourism," said Runners chair Rudy Fernandez during Thursday's press launching at the UP Ayala Technohub in Diliman.

QCIM organizers, through race director Noelle Miranda, have sent invites to the Kenyans but as of press time, the defending champion has yet to respond.

Runners is also hopeful that last year's participants, numbering about 70, from Canada, Singapore, Germany, United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Taiwan and Korea would race again.

GARCIA

Garcia orders audit of PSC contracts

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE SPORTS Commission chair Richie Garcia yesterday ordered a special audit and a review of the agency's legal documents to give his board new administration a clean slate.

Garcia's goal is to overcome with national sports associations and suppliers which have receivables from the agency but haven't been paid because of the absence of PSC board members.

"We are not questioning the past administration," said Garcia.

He added that a special audit is in place so the PSC "will know its financial situation," including inventory of supplies.

"Right now nobody knows the inventory of supplies in the PSC," Garcia added.

The PSC chief said that though the agency has already paid its debt to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and thereby gets the full subsidy from it, the PSC has substantial payables to the NSAs and suppliers.

The agency gets the proceeds of the Pagcor earnings reportedly worth P80 million. Garcia, however, failed to say how much is the exact payables.

Garcia also faced irregularities in the security setup of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and the Philsports house, where the agency pegs the 2011 guards.

Upon investigation, Garcia said he found out that only 188 are actually deployed in the PSC-owned facilities. Garcia hopes to trim the number to just 90 guards. He also cut down on the janitorial staff.

CEU shoots for league domination as WNCAA kicks off

By Ronina S. Acosta

CENTRO ESCOLAR University's bid to dominate the 41st WNCAA starts today when the host school kicks off hostilities at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila.

CEU officials have declared their players are in excellent form and are well prepared to achieve their goal to be No. 1 this year after the school finished second in the overall championship in the previous season.

After an elaborate opening ceremony which starts at 11 noon, CEU plunges into action in Senior B basketball against San Beda Alabang at 1 p.m.

New members St. Paul College Pasig and Brenda clash in the 2:30 p.m. midgets game, followed by the University of Asia and the Pacific-La Consolacion Manila duel at 3:30 p.m.

DAEP topped the Senior B division last season at the expense of La Consolacion, earning both squads a promotion to Senior A.

CEU and Philippine Women's University occupied the last two spots in Senior A and were relegated to Senior B of the league being supervised by official media partner Philippine Daily Inquirer, Scout Sports Trading, Manila Bulletin, Lenovo, Mojo, Tricht, Goody and MJC Press.

St. Paul, staging a comeback after several years of absence, and Perpetual will join other regular members Angeles-ou, Chiang Kai Shek, College of St. Benilde, De La Salle Zobel, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Lyceum, La Salle College, Ilocos, Rizal Technological University, St. Jude Catholic School, St. Scholastica's College, St. Stephen's High School and University of Asia and the Pacific.

Lyceum again leads the favorites' roster as it eyes a fifth straight basketball crown, while the defending team, toughened up by its nine in the Shakey's V-League, has ruled the past 11 seasons.

The 19 member schools will compete in basketball, volleyball and futsal until October while the second semester events are badminton, chess, bowling, swimming, table tennis and taekwondo.

Undisputed athletes will have an exhibition on opening day and may be included in the second semester calendar.

Women national karate team are and current volleyball reporter Alaska Aces Alaska will deliver the inspirational talk and will later join league president Vivian Mendiola of St. Scholastica and CEU president Sr. Crucesa Bedelina in making the ceremonial cuts.

Davao nat'l pro-am golf tourney set

SAMSUNG AND Davao are joining hands to stage the first Davao National Pro-Am golf tournament with a million pesos at stake on Sept. 1 to 3 at the tough Apo Golf and Country Club in Davao.

The tourney pro get a hefty P172,000 while amateurs worth P120,000 will be given to his amateur partner in the event which marks the first involvement of Samsung in the pro-ams.

Five of the top 30 teams will win cash towards but only the winners of the top three places will be awarded prizes.

Samsung has been supporting local golf through its series of amateur tournaments...the Samsung Amateur Tour, the Samsung Interscholastic Golf Championships and the Samsung Philippines—where the country's best players are active.

The Davao pro-am that will be hosted by Emmanuel and DOLH Golf Official apparel) is expected to attract a former cast, not to mention members of the KCM amateur golfer led by national players like Alfredo Fernando, Jr., and Alaska and reigning national champion Clyde Mondilla.

The tourney was initiated by Jimmy del Rosario, golfing chair of Davao, in his desire to help local pros.

FERNANDO

Beermen 'Fiesta' favorites

THE SAN Miguel Beermen are the oddsmakers favorites to win the 19th Fiesta Conference title, a governor-sanctioned betting station said yesterday.

The Pagcor-licensed Megasportsworld (www.megasportsworld.com) has listed the Beermen as the popular betting choice against the Alaska Aces.

A big part of the odds list is San Miguel's energetic 6-foot-5 import Gabe Freeman, and a local crew teaming with talent. Jay Washington leads San Miguel's local charge along with Arwind Santos, Danny Ildefonso, Alex Cabagnot, Olsen Racela. Beermen Peña not sure their MVP Danny Ildefonso.

The Beermen also flashed some fears in

FREEMAN

SIMPSON

their first game, a 93-85 escape against Air21 last Sept. 4, 2, in the semifinals.

San Miguel is the winningest team in league history with 18 PBA titles.

Alaska, meanwhile, will be led by Dimitri Simpson, LA Tenorio and midconference import Quinton Ogilvie.

The team reached the finals a playdate before the Beermen, unveiling a seventh game to-one powerhouse Talk 'N Text.

Alaska's eyeing a 15th franchise crown.

To aid bettors, detailed analysis on the upcoming PBA Finals will be featured on the Sports Insider featuring Jimmy Rudlow and Fred Duran, shown every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 p.m. on Solar Sports Xtralaya, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10 p.m. on BasketballTV.

Aguinaldo nips Highlands, nails WGAP crown

BOB BALLADO NAILED the championship trophy as it held off Tagaytay Highlands with a 10-1 eagle-pegging in Indang on a three-point victory in the premier class of the WGAP (Women's Golf Association of the Philippines) circuit's 38th leg at Riverside Complex course recently.

Josie Grisal and Mabel Salitre fired 43 and 42 points, respectively, under the Modified Stableford scoring system as Aguinaldo outdueled Highlands (138) in the 20-to-play four-to-count format event.

Mabel Salitre contributed 39 while Karen Rose added 37 for Aguinaldo, which teamed up to bid for the overall championship to Class A of the annual tournament among the leading golfing ladies of the country's top clubs.

Highlands was led by Sandy Remoralde's 41 points, Rosalia Dimaculangan 40, Wanda Imperial 39 and Marilyn Domingo's 36.

Ma. Elena, with Alice Jose shooting 40 points, Cecilia Kimpo-on and Therese Dilloy turning in a pair of 39s, and Carmela Lee adding a 38, assembled a 12th to Batch Red in a closely fought contest organized by WGAP.

Castelcrag and Alabang finished tied for fourth at 146 followed by fourth leg-winner Forest Hills (144), Villamor (138), Valley Golf and Riviera.

Aguinaldo lost its midsixty with the layout as it also bucked out a close win by Class B, scoring 157 and slipping Alabang by two points.

Dalia Medarozona led the hosts' charge with 47 points while Irene Sandi Kim, Raquel Barazon and Rowena Rizo added 41, 36 and 33 points, respectively.

The Alabang ladies, who topped the second leg at home, had a 151 as Marjorie Lapuguo fired 45 points and Melchor Bermillo, Alice Gutierrez and Odette Cardenas added 39, 36 and 31, respectively.

SPORTSWATCH

Bulls flies in UFC champ St.-Pierre

UNDISPUTED ULTIMATE Fighting Championship (UFC) welterweight champion Georges St.-Pierre is set to end the country in September in an event organized by Bulls Organization.

St.-Pierre (25-2) has won his last seven fights against top-notch foes, including future Hall-of-Famers Matt Hughes and BJ Penn. The 29-year-old Canadian will defend his belt for the fifth time in a UFC 124 venue. Josh Koscheck on Dec. 11.

Big field seen in Las Piñas staghost

UNDECIDED, UNRATED from all over the country are expected to vie in the Las Piñas Golfmore's 6-stag derby slated Aug. 28 and 29.

The 72-stag tournament will be open to 70 and the 4-stag format on Aug. 28. Entry fee is P 50,000. All stakers P1 million and a trophy.

For inquiries, call (02) 8806020 or (02) 2125044.

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa
SPORTS

TNT 'USELESS' THIRD

Aces shock Beermen, take 1-0 'Fiesta' lead

By Mycong R. Castillo

SURVIVING ITS rumor-ridden first season in the playoffs, Alaska last night made up for a sluggish start with a furious finish to shock frenzied San Miguel Beer, 89-83, and grab a breakaway in their best-of-seven series for the PBA Fiesta Conference crown at the Araneta Coliseum.

Dionne Simpson and LA Tenorio, Alaska's top guns who wound up in the losing end of individual awards handed out before tip-off, formed the two-sided dagger that buried itself in the Beermen's hearts.

Simpson was brilliant all night, shooting 28 points that were with 21 rebounds with Tenorio dropping two crucial three-point bombs inside the final 5:00. He added a night-high eight assists.

"The guys just really reached deep," said Alaska coach Tim Cone. "We learned on the conference we got against Ginebra (in the quarterfinals) and Talk N Text (in the Final Three)."

Simpson scored 13 of his total in the second and the keys, who trailed by 11 early, turned a six-point deficit at the end of the first into a six-point lead entering the third.

Alaska's Game 1 victory was actually Simpson's first over his Miguel in seven Finals Conference games dating back to 2007. The Aces also snapped a six-game losing streak in a title series, counting the last two games of the 2008 Philippine Cup and a 0-4 loss to Purefoods in the same tournament this season.

The Aces never showed traces of fatigue, even if they were playing their 13th straight game since the start of the quarterfinals against the Gin Kings last July 9.

Freeman picked up his fifth foul late in the third quarter but still finished with 27 points for the three. Jay Mondragon added 16.

Further, Alan Caidic scored 20 points and Harvey Carey added 14 and 13 rebounds in power Talk N Text to a 113-95 rout-by over Barby Ace for Barangay.

"It's a useless game to play," coach Chot Reyes said. "For the lack of a better word, this game absolutely sucked big time for us."

Mondragon and Freeman were the first Player of the Conference and Best Import awards, respectively, in short rites preceding Game 1 of the Finals.

Mondragon won his first BPC award in running backs after tallying 1,343 points, beating Tenorio by almost 700 after dominating the statistical points race and voting by media, the PBA, fellow players and Asian TV.

SAN MIGUEL Beer's conference Best import awardee Gabe Freeman puts up a shot off Alaska reinforcement Dionne Simpson in last night's opener of the PBA Fiesta Cup finals series at the Araneta Coliseum. The prolific Freeman pipped Simpson for the award by two. then 1 Mondragon, after Solar TV withheld its vote for the second import choice.

Freeman won the Best Import trophy for the second straight year, topping Alaska's Dion Simpson by 86 points.

Curiously, Solar TV refused to vote for second place.

A second-place vote is worth 100 points and if Solar issued for Simpson, he would've overtaken Freeman. Freeman tallied 1,356 points, while Simpson had 1,272.

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Que grabs 1-shot lead; Juvic in 2nd

Que hits his second shot on No. 14. He needed only 33 putts.

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA —A limping Angelo Que seemed home with a three-under-par 68 on Friday and stepped into a one-shot lead after three rounds of the World-wide Holdings Selangor Masters, where six-foot-three 53 players have a realistic shot at the title.

Que, chasing a third home win victory moderate a slow start to post a five-under-par 208 in the US$300,000 event.

Playing partner Chris Rodgers of Britain and countryman Juvic Pagunsan led the chasing pack with matching 69 at the tricky Kota Selangor Golf Club while Malaysia's Arif Rizman (72), Filipino Jay Bayron (70), Thai Jiro Chowsiri Phaphol (69) and Hanebeek Soojipakdal (71) and Australians Scott Barr (71) and Brad Smith (72) were a further shot back on 210.

The 31-year-old Que has been struggling with blisters in both feet all week but sprung to life on his second nine with four birdies over a five-hole stretch.

"I'm happy with the way I played," said Que, who needed only 25 putts. "I've been putting well the past few days. Hopefully, I can keep it up. Putting is my weakness and I've worked on it."

Like the first two rounds, he started poorly with two bogeys in his opening five holes but a birdie on No. 5 sparked the comeback. He then birdied three in a row at the turn followed by another birdie on 14 where he rolled in a 30-footer.

"Unlike many, Que was happy to endure another weather delay this afternoon which disrupted play for over an hour.

"The delay is good for me as I get to rest my feet," said the 68-time, who has four triumphs won the 2008 Philippine Open.

Sweet-swinging Pagsanjan, who has two top-threes in his last five starts, finished in a 20-foot birdie putt on the last hole.

"I really needed the putt on the last," said Pagsanjan.

Filipinos Jhonnel Lacanlale (71) and Mars Pauig (72) head an eight-man logjam at 211, four shots off the pace. Asian Tour News

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Olanday

Condo residents get 10-day extension

Tenants take charge, offer steps to solve gas leak problem in Makati City

By Tina G. Santos

THE RESIDENTS of West Tower condominium in Bonifacio Global City, Makati City, who were given another reprieve by the city government to siphon the mixture of oil and floodwater accumulated in their basement, have mapped out steps they intend to take to trace the source of a gas leak in their building detected more than three weeks ago.

City Engineer Nelson Morales gave them 10 more days starting today, saying it was the city's way of helping the residents who asked for more time to siphon the oil and water after they were abandoned by the building's maintenance personnel on Tuesday.

In their letter sent Aug. 5 to Morales, the residents vowed to undertake three to five well bore tests along the boundary of the building to trace the origin of the leak.

Such tests will be done in coordination with the Barangay City Engineer's Office, Department of Environment Services and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

They also promised to get a used oil dealer to mop up the oil-fuel floating on top of the water and dispose the collected substances properly.

"This will allow us to eliminate the effluent material from the source and leave 'clean' water which can then be tested to determine a more efficient and cost-effective manner of disposal and use," the letter said.

They also promised to give the oil products stored in the oil drum to the used oil dealer who will do the operation at no expense," they added.

"We are urging our lessee to comply with your order to fix the problem in our home. However, we are severely constrained by our limited financial resources," the residents told Morales in their letter.

Morales said the 10-day respite was their way of helping the residents who are now taking care of the problem themselves after they were abandoned by their building administrator and their maintenance personnel.

He added that the surrounding areas shall be monitored regularly by city engineering crew for an update report on its progress and to protect the public as well.

The first deadline given to by the city government was July 29.

When the management of West Tower asked for an extension, they were given until yesterday to clear the basement so that it could determine the source of the oil leak that prompted the city government to order the evacuation of residents two weeks ago.

Morales warned that if the residents fail to meet the third and final deadline, the city government would be left with no choice but to revoke the condominium's occupancy and building permit.

BALANCING ACT
Residents of dorays in Navotas City use this narrow wooden bridge to get to the other side of a road that remains flooded with stagnant water that accumulated after frequent rains in the Metro.

QC's Payatas Road to undergo cleanup

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON City government yesterday created an inter-sectoral task force to clean up and restore order along Payatas Road in Quezon City.

Dubbed the "Task Force Payatas Road," the team is composed of city officials, barangay officials and shop owners working together to restore order along the 11-km road.

"This task force is part of Mayor Herbert Bautista's plan to change the look of Payatas Road for his first 100 days in office," said Frederick Tinsay, task force chief.

Tinsay is also the head of the city government's Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD).

The task force also provides support to "Task Force Concrete" which was earlier created to improve Commonwealth Avenue.

Manex Rios, head of the EPWMD's garbage collection and special cleaning section, said the new task force is made of city officials, officials of Barangays Commonwealth and Payatas, as well as shop owners along the Road.

Payatas Road was formerly known as Litex Road and stretches for 11 kilometers.

The road is the main access road to the La Mesa Watershed and the Quezon City Controlled Dump Facility. Three public schools are also located along the road.

The portion of the road near Commonwealth Avenue has been cleared of market vendors who were relocated to other areas. A few junk shops remain in the area.

Some of these shops do not have storage rooms, forcing owners to segregate materials for recycling along the road.

Tinsay said they already warned seven junk shop owners that they could lose their permits to sell if they don't clean the shops in front along the road.

Him pointed out that Payatas Road had problems like indiscriminate trash disposal, waste burning and illegal parking, especially by dump trucks, causing traffic congestion.

He added that some also resort to unauthorized scavenging activities on Payatas Road.

The task force, however, assured residents that it would maintain cleanliness and order without compromising the livelihood activities of residents.

Las Piñas City fast-tracks processing of business permits, licenses

By Tina G. Santos

IN AN EFFORT to improve services and encourage more investments in the city, Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar directed the Business and Building Permit Offices to reduce to the barest minimum documentary requirements to operate a business.

The directive is in response to the call of President Aquino to streamline the process in getting business permits in the local government, he said.

The mayor explained that even before Aquino's directive, Las Piñas has already reduced the transaction time from five days to three days, after the requirements have been completed.

To further reduce the time in getting permits, Aguilar appealed to the public to complete the necessary documents to fast-track the issuance of licenses and avoid delays in transactions.

Warning

Aguilar, likewise, urged the public to directly deal with legitimate City Hall employees to avoid falling prey to unscrupulous individuals or "fixers."

He said persons found soliciting money from taxpayers shall be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law.

Meanwhile, the mayor ordered the creation of a task force to study, review and recommend necessary measures and policies to further improve and make the streamlining processes more successful.

Las Piñas also became multe one roof all the offices that issue permits to provide convenience to the outstanding public as part of its one-stop-shop program.

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MMDA, LTFRB start inventory of buses on Edsa

By Tina G. Santos

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) will begin today an inventory of passenger buses plying Edsa and other major thoroughfares as part of the agencies' renewed campaign against public utility vehicles (PUVs) operating without a franchise.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino and LTFRB officer in charge Jeanne Lanzin on Thursday signed a memorandum of agreement providing the guidelines for the campaign against "colorum" (illegal) buses.

The plan is address the problem includes the placing of barcoded "Bidirectional Video Bus" stickers on buses with legal franchises.

"The stickers will segregate them from colorum buses," said Lanzin.

Starting today, LTFLB inspectors will supervise the Land Transportation Office's annual expanded vehicle inventory. Lanzin said, adding that it will take about three months to finish the inventory.

"We hope to inspect a thousand buses per day," Lanzin added.

There are about 13,000 passenger buses authorized to operate in the metropolis, according to Tolentino and Lanzin.

But there are many more illegally plying their routes, contributing to the perennial traffic problems, particularly on the 24-kilometer Edsa, that traverses the northern and southern parts of Metro Manila, they said.

For its part, MMDA, which provided the stickers with security markings, will assist LTFRB employees in the inspection of PUBS, particularly to the installation of stickers and tagging of the bus units inspected.

The MMDA will also provide manpower to ensure a smooth traffic flow within the inspection area.

METRO BRIEFS

QC police launch hunt for security guard

POLICE are now looking for a trigger happy security guard of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems (MWSS) who went into hiding after he was accused of killing an 18-year-old boy he saw running inside the compound at dawn yesterday. "You can't just shoot another person you see walking in a restricted area. The security guard should have been prosecuted by the complainants in the police for murder," Chief Insp. Benjamin Marcano told reporters. Marcano, who heads the homicide section of the Quezon City Police District said he ordered a deeper investigation on the death of Jerome Ponce, 18, a construction worker of Barangay Pansol. MWSS security guard Virgilio Bandales Jr., of Star Special Corporate Security Management has been linked to the killing. "The firearm used in the shooting, we assessed, is still with (bandales). All the more reason we have to (be) taken into custody," Marcano said. PO3 Randy Bantillo, officer-on-case said that Ponce died of gunshot wounds in the abdomen and forehead. Bantillo said the evidence showed Ponce was running away from the pursuing security guard when he was killed. The police investigator said he has yet to talk to the security guard as he disappeared after the incident. Rhea C. Calvario

Commendation, job offer, for honest waiter

A WAITER and restaurant technology student at the City College of Manila received a commendation from the Manila government—and a job offer—for returning a wallet to a customer at a restaurant where she was working as an intern. Donna Mae Ilao, a senior, was commended for her honest deed by Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim at the City Hall recently. Officials said in a statement Lim even promised a job for Mae Ilao after graduation. On July 30, Mae Ilao, as on-the-job trainee at the Del Spaghetti House at SM City Manila, found a wallet containing P6,000 in cash while she was clearing the table. She turned the wallet over to her superior, Jennalyn Estrada, who then called and contacted its owner, Ana Marcelo, who works at the Bureau of Customs in Manila. The grateful Marcelo sent go-s mail to the Manila Media Bureau to spread the word about Mae Ilao's act of honesty. The message was then forwarded to Lim, who immediately wrote the college in being Mae Ilao to City Hall to be honored for her deed. JV Ty

RICE APLENTY
A maintenance man scoops the flour of the NFA warehouse along Visayas Avenue where sacks of rice are marketed for distribution to the poor are stored.

NBI moves regional directors, assistants to new posts

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FOLLOWING the distribution of six divisions in the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), agency director Magtanggol Gatdula yesterday ordered the transfer of three regional directors, including Cesareo Tamayose Unit (CIU) head Ito Diaz, and at least seven assistant regional directors to six field offices nationwide as part of the bureau's reorganization scheme.

NBI spokesperson Special Investigator Ferdie Zamora Jr. revealed that apart from Diaz, also reassigned to the regional offices from the bureau's headquarters were assistant directors and lawyers Efren Mendoza, chief of staff of the Office of the Regional Operations Services, and Edmund Villaroa, Bureau of Capital Region director.

Last month, Diaz disclosed on an alleged attempt by a retired Air Force colonel to bribe Magtanggol Gatdula to witness Kenny Dalandag.

"The NBI director merely assigned them to their proper places. Since they are regional directors, they should be heading regional offices," Zamora explained, adding that their reassignment was long overdue.

The spokesperson pointed out that at least seven assistant regional directors assigned at the main office were also given assignments to head regional offices. Field Operations Division (FOD) chief Roland Agrabiano and Special Action Team (SAT) chief and lawyer Angelito Magno were among those promoted to higher posts.

Those with new assignments are Ricardo Pangan Jr., who was designated to head the Davao Regional Office; Hector Edward Godoy, Cagayan regional officer; Diaz, head of the Central Luzon office with Agrabiano as assistant regional director; Ramon Vigilia, Cordillera regional officer; Wenceslao Bolorion, NBI-NCR office and Constancio Jones, the Calabarzon regional office.

Also tapped to head the Mimaropa regional office was Manuel Jose Infantini, while Antonio Pagaduan was designated head region of the Bicol. Meanwhile, was named director of the Western Visayas regional office; Villaroa, General Virayan regional office; Ricardo Binamgad, the Eastern Visayas regional office; Manuel Almendares, Western Mindanao regional officer with former Internal Affairs chief and lawyer Oscar Bandoles as assistant regional director.

Jose Juan Yap, Northern Mindanao regional office; former counter-intelligence division chief Win Salvador, Southeastern Mindanao regional officer; former OIC-head Augusto Magno, Eastern Mindanao regional office; Mario Rimas, the Caraga regional office; and Jess Lemmayog, ARMM regional officer with former ITF chief Arnel Dalmacion as his assistant regional director.

Iglesia ni Cristo declares war vs P-Noy

PRESIDENT Noy, in his search for people on Hi-up key positions in his administration, has displeased Iglesia ner that supported him in the last election.

Iglesia ni Cristo's Executive Minister Eduardo Manalo has written the President to ignore all his recommendees for some positions in government, according to a source close to the Ai Eduardo, as he is hurt over to his flock.

Ai Eduardo said the INC was freeing the President from the pressure of considering people recommended by the church for certain posts in his government.

My source inside the INC said there were positions that Ai Eduardo had asked P-Noy to fill up with persons from the ranks of the INC, but such requests were ignored.

The INC head said those whom P-Noy has appointed to key positions upon his recommendation can still due be removed or they can choose to resign.

One of INC's recommendees is Director Magtanggol Gatdula of National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

The religious sect's withdrawal of support from the Aquino administration is expected to have grave political repercussions for the Budgeting administration.

* * *

If P-Noy has stood up to the INC, he should stand up to the Catholic Church as well.

ON TARGET
Ronnon Tayao

Catholic priests and bishops have been interfering in the affairs of the past presidents, especially the one that P-Noy succeeded.

Ilocos Macapagal-Arroyo is an scandal-of-gang to-hell she goes to for all the collapses to her from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

The President, a Catholic, should show that he has a mind of his own by turning down directives from the CBCP if such orders run contrary to the people's welfare.

He should ask his allies in the House of Representatives and in the Senate to pass the Reproductive Health Bill that aims to control our exploding population by giving couples a choice of birth control methods.

Most Filipinos, including Catholics, want the controversial bill passed.

* * *

Ironically, people who are scared of going to hell are sinners.

They commit sin, according to the definition of true religious, more than people who don't care at all.

Those people who fear the fires of hell go to church every Sunday and pray fervently for their salvation. But when they get home from church they treat their housemaids like slaves.

And if they are government officials, they steal from the people without mercy.

* * *

I remember helping a housemaid who was hit with a shopping board in the face by her employer so many times that she looked like a character from the comedy show of Dolphy.

Leonarda Latugal was 25 years old when she escaped from her employer of 10 years and was wandering aimlessly on a street in Mandaluyong when she was picked up by Good Samaritans and taken to "Sandugong ang Kay Bello" (silent sacred years ago.

I noticed that she was wearing a bell attached to a rope around her waist. She said it was so her employer would know to what part of the house she was.

I called the employer around the same day by agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

You know who visited the employer of the police-precinct?

Her fellow church members who praised over her as she would be saved from the clutches of evil!

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

Russia bans grain exports amid drought

ST. BASIL'S Cathedral is seen through the haze enveloping Moscow, Russia, early Aug. 4 as tourists share a bottle of water. Temperatures up to 38 degree Celsius have caused forest and peat bog fires across Russia's central and western regions, destroying close to 2,000 homes. AP

MOSCOW—Russia, the world's third wheat exporter, has banned grain exports until the yearend after a record drought and fires ravaged millions of hectares amid a scorching heat wave.

Wheat futures shot up to a two-year high on commodities markets after the shock announcement from Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Thursday raised concerns about global grain supplies.

The fires—known as Putin's revenge—threaten the worst wildfires in its modern history that have killed 50 people, with the blazes spreading to the country's south and raising concerns about radiation levels.

"In connection with the unusually high temperatures and the drought, I consider it right to impose a temporary ban on the export from Russia of grain and other products produced from grain," Putin told a government meeting.

Russia earlier this week slashed its 2010/2011 grain harvest forecast to 78.75 million tons, compared with a harvest of 97 million tons in 2009, owing to the worst drought for decades.

Last year, Russia exported 21.4 million tons of grain and officials had already warned that could be sharply lower this year owing to the drought.

The prime minister's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the export ban would come into force on Aug. 15 and remain in place until Dec. 31.

"We must not allow excessive increase in prices and must protect the basic food needs of our citizens," Putin said in comments broadcast on state television.

Putin signed a decree imposing the ban, which also stated that Russia would not follow members of a regional customs union—Belarus and Kazakhstan—to make a similar move. Kazakhstan is also a major world grain exporter.

"There can only be one conclusion—shock," said Vladimir Shcherbakov, director of the Processor agricultural marketing firm.

"We will only be able to return to the global markets with a substantial reputation, with losses," he told Interfax.

Russia's policy after Dec. 31 would be determined by the results of the harvest, Putin said, Russia has spent 30 percent of its arable land (35 million hectares) destroyed in the heat wave.

The severity of the drought has seen state of emergency declared in 27 regions.

Emergencies Minister Sergei Shoigu said earlier that the overall number of fires across Russia had fallen "but not so much that we can rejoice."

Shoigu said the emergency services were working flat out to prevent the fires spreading to a region in western Russia where the soils are still contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe of 1986 in neighboring Ukraine.

Wildfires that have been raging around Moscow for a week also forced the Russian defense ministry to order the evacuation of residences from a military depot near the capital, the Ria Novosti news agency reported.

"Because of the danger posed by fires in the region ... the weapons, artillery and cobalts as a munitions depot," at Alabinsk, about 70 km southwest of Moscow, have been "transferred to a secure site," a defense ministry spokesperson said.

Putin also announced that agriculture producers who had suffered as a result of the drought would receive financial aid totaling 311 billion rubles ($1.17 billion).

Concerns about Russia—crippled with a drought that has also hit Ukraine and Kazakhstan as well as a low harvest in Canada—had already led to a spike in global wheat prices in mid-July. AFP

Gay marriage appeal notice filed; long battle ahead

SAN FRANCISCO—One day after a Federal judge struck down California's ban on gay marriage, supporters of the voter-approved law on Thursday notified the court they would appeal, firing a new salvo in what experts say will be a long legal battle.

The one-paragraph document, which is the first 22 District Court Judge Vaughn Walker that the defendants intend to appeal his decision to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals.

That appeal had been expected in a politically charged case that most believe will ultimately be decided by the US Supreme Court and could reject a decision would mean that US congressional and state elections this fall, including California's race for governor.

Walker overturned California's voter-approved ban on gay marriages, known as Proposition 8, on Wednesday after finding that it violates the due process and equal protection provisions of the US Constitution.

But the judge ordered that Proposition 8 remain in place at least temporarily while he decides on a request by supporters of the law to keep it intact as it moves to a higher court.

Walker issued his legal "stay" in order to give both sides a chance to file legal papers on whether the halt should be extended during the appeals process.

The deadline for such side to issue legal briefs is Friday, and Walker could rule on an extension as early as this week.

Backers of Proposition 8 in the law firm Gibson Dunn and Crutcher, which represents Pacific Justice Institute in the case, told Reuters that "our plan is to appeal a stay."

Even if Walker decides to lift the stay, an appeal to the 9th Circuit by the measure's supporters would put the judge's ruling on hold, meaning the battle is expected to continue for months to come, experts said.

Reuters and plaintiffs intend to ask the appeals court to keep the case on a fast schedule.

Jim Campbell, an attorney with pro-Proposition 8 Alliance Defense Fund, said supporters have not yet decided whether they would agree to a faster schedule, and he estimated that initial legal briefs defending the law could take two to three months to file. Oral arguments might then begin in January.

Meanwhile, the issue is certain to make the agenda of many congressional and state elections in the fall, which is an ally when Democrats and Pres. Barack Obama, who has said he opposes legalizing gay marriage, had hoped to avoid.

Already in California's race, Democrat Meg Whitman and Democrat Jerry Brown, who are running for governor, released statements stating out unusually opposite sides of the issue, with Brown in favor of the ruling and Whitman opposed. Reuters

HEATH Campbell (left) with his wife Deborah and son Jakob Heinz Campbell, 3, in photo taken Dec. 16, 2009.

US court: Nazi-naming parents shouldn't get kids

TRENTON, New Jersey—A New Jersey couple who gave their children Nazi-inspired names should not regain custody of them, a state appeals court ruled on Thursday, citing the parents' own disabilities and the risk of serious injury to their children.

The same names Hitler and Hitlerina Campbell's claim would children from their home in January 2009.

A month earlier, the family drew attention when a superintendent refused to decorate a birthday cake for their son, Adolf Hitler Campbell. He and siblings Aryan Unit, Hitlerina Aryan Campbell and Stormtrooper Hitler Joan-ne Campbell have been in foster care.

A family court had earlier determined that there was insufficient evidence that the parents had abused or neglected the children. That decision was upheld until the appeals court could review it. On Thursday, the three-judge appeals panel determined there was enough evidence and that the children should not be returned.

The panel sent the case back to family court for further monitoring.

A jury order remains in place and the parties refused to discuss the decision.

Heath Campbell told The Associated Press last year that he believed the children were taken because officials felt they were in "imminent danger." He accused the state of opposing the children because of their names and said government officials were relying on unproven accusations made by a neighbor and by an ex-wife who changed how with abusing her years ago.

The children's names and the birthday cake were not mentioned in Thursday's ruling. The court found that there were typical other reasons that proved the need for continued protective services for the children.

According to court records, both parents are unemployed and both suffer from unspecified physical and psychological disabilities.

The court found that both parents were themselves victims of childhood abuse and said neither "have received adequate treatment for their serious psychological conditions."

Heath Campbell, 37, remained and Deborah Campbell dropped out of high school before finishing the 10th grade, according to court records.

In its ruling, the panel found the parents "indelibly stained a title of serious injury to their children by failing to prevent their children from harm and failing to acknowledge and treat their disabilities."

The judges considered a typewritten note signed by Deborah Campbell and given to a neighbor to it, Campbell says that if she were found dead, her husband was to blame. AP

US, nuclear powers join Hiroshima memorial

DOVES fly past the ground dome in Ronde Dome during the 65th anniversary ceremony of the 1945 atomic bombing at Hiroshima. AP

HIROSHIMA, Japan—The US, Britain and France participated for the first time on Friday in the annual commemoration of the A-bomb attack on Hiroshima, in a 65th-anniversary event that organizers hope will bolster global efforts toward nuclear disarmament.

Hiroshima's mayor strongly embraced the Obama administration's drive, saying he hoped this year's event—which began Friday morning with an offering of water in the 140,000 who died—would boost denuclearization around the world.

Hiroshima is also hoping that President Barack Obama will visit their city, an idea that he has said he would like to consider but which would be highly controversial and unprecedented for a sitting US president.

The event to commemorate is very center of the globe the issues yearning of the survivors for the abolition of nuclear weapons," Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba said in a speech at the ceremony, which drew 55,000 people.

Akiba called on the Japanese government to take a leadership role in nuclear disarmament to-ward "leaving a new page in human history".

"I offer my prayers to those who died—we will not make you be patient much longer."

The site of the world's first atomic bomb attack echoed with the cheers of schoolchildren and the solemn ringing of bells on Friday as Hiroshima marked its biggest memorial yet. At 8:15 a.m.—the time the bomb dropped, incinerating most of the city—a moment of silence was observed.

Along with the US, Britain and France also made their first official appearance at the ceremony, as well as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Altogether, 74 nations were represented.

China, which sent a low-ranking official to 2008, was not participating. Officials said it did not give a reason.

Hiroshima was careful to ensure that the memorial—while honoring the dead—emphasized a forward-looking approach, framing not on whether the bombing was justified, a point which many Japanese dispute, but on arousing a future nuclear attack.

Already in Washington, were a glimmer to show weather toward nuclear disarmament, which Obama has emphasized as one of his administration's top objectives.

"For the sake of future generations, we must continue to work together to realize a world without nuclear weapons," Ross said in a statement.

But, who presented flowers at the formal Flame in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, said the park's memorial will need a signal to the world that nuclear weapons must be destroyed.

"Life is short, but memory is long," Ban said. "We many of you, that city-workers ... as vivid as the white light that seared the sky, as dark as the black rains that followed."

Ban added that the time has come to move from "Ground Zero, to Global Zero"—a world without any nuclear arms. AP

Backdoor entry: Millions of outsiders eligible for EU passports

BUCHAREST, Romania—Participants in a Brussels summit to discuss how many people living elsewhere are eligible for EU passports. But the figures available suggest such passport policies could put a strain on the EU at a time when some of the bloc's cautious favor putting enlargement on hold, so they try to put their economic houses in order.

EU members Romania and Bulgaria already are handing out passports to ethnically linked groups in countries outside their borders, and Hungary plans to do the same as of January.

The main beneficiaries are citizens of Moldova, Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine and Turkey—about 4.7 million people with living standards at a fraction of the EU average whose countries are years away from membership.

The figure was arrived at by adding up the number of Romanian-speaking Moldovans, Slavic Macedonians, ethnic Hungarians living in Serbia and Ukraine, and the number of Turks who fled Bulgaria to escape a forced assimilation campaign there during the communist era. All are eligible for EU citizenship under passport giveaway policies.

Others outside Europe and looking to escape hardship at home also are lining up.

Spain enacted legislation in January 2009 giving even the grandchildren of Spaniards whose ancestors left due to political or economic hardship, issued by the Civil War the right to obtain passports from Madrid—and this response has been huge.

Spanish foreign ministry figures from January say that over the first full year of the law, there were 181,461 applications—95 percent from Latin American countries—and that 81,715 were granted. Total Latin American numbers are unavailable—but the ministry has extended the window for applications by another year to December 2011, due to "overwhelming demand."

In Cuba alone, nearly 62,000 people have applied for Spanish citizenship and 26,413 have received it as of June 30, clearing the way for the lengthy and expensive process of obtaining permission to travel abroad—or emigrate permanently. Staff at the Spanish consulate has handed out more than 35,000 passports over the past three years, including to those who qualified before the grandparents law was enacted.

Spanish and Mexican authorities were unable to meet AP requests for concrete figures on the number of Mexicans who could qualify but 150,000 are estimated to be eligible. Of those, more than 14,000 people have been given Spanish citizenship and huge lines of passport seekers form every day.

More than 2.6 million people of Italian origin—most of them also in Latin America—already hold Italian passports. And, like Spain, Portugal is also handing out to children and grandchildren of emigres—most of them to spending Brazil, home to 200 million people.

Millions more worldwide are eligible for EU passports due to their origin. But for those in poorer countries like the US, there is often little incentive in relocating. It's the world's richest nations are drawn to Europe—and the citizenships offered to outsiders are like winning big at the lottery. AP

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Gov't reviews P38B worth of power projects

Concession deal with National Grid also being studied

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is reviewing P38-billion worth of power-related contracts as well as the $3.95-billion concession agreement with National Grid Corporation of the Philippines to ensure that all these deals were above board.

All the contracts under review, which included the much-publicized P3-billion transmission line project of Meralco, were forged during the Arroyo administration.

According to Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras, the Aquino administration found a number of issues, concerns and obligations that needed to be addressed to ensure that these projects were legitimate.

He underscored the need for the review as the projects were costing the Filipino taxpayers.

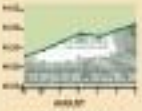
"I said that we better discuss this because we're really trying to create a more responsible fiscal policy on disbursement of resources," Almendras stressed.

The energy chief said he would present

GOV'T B6

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Aug. 6, 2010
44.890



STOCK MARKET
Aug. 6, 2010
4.93

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks end flat

LOCAL SHARES closed flat yesterday, ending a four-day rally that saw the main index reaching a year's high, as investors pocketed gains made earlier in the week.

The main Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) shed 0.14 percent or 4.86 points to close at 3,516.26. The broader all-share index rose 0.06 percent or 1.11 points to 2,029.87.

Trading volume and value declined, with 1.11 billion shares changing hands for P55.42 billion from 1.34 billion shares worth P5.08 billion on Thursday.

A local trader said the local market could be in for a little more profit-taking this week.

"The volume [on Friday] was not that high so that means a lot of investors have not been able to cash in yet," Eagle Equities president Joseph Rivan said.

He said, however, that the support level of 3,497 points would not likely be breached.

Decliners outpaced advancers, 87 to 54, while 44 shares did not move.

Improved corporate earnings reports by local firms and gains by shares abroad pushed the local stock index by a 31-month high earlier this week. Thursday's closing of 3,521.13 points was the highest since the market hit 3,617.29 on Jan. 2, 2008.

Paolo E. Montecillo

Peso rallies to 44.89 to a dollar

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PESO yesterday broke into the 44-to-a-dollar territory to its highest in nearly three months, buoyed by increasing appetite of foreign investors who have set their eyes on emerging Asian economies like the Philippines given their favorable growth prospects.

The local currency ended the trading day at 44.89 against the dollar, its highest since finishing at 43.76 on May 14.

During mid-day trade, the peso hit a high of 44.83 and a low of 45.05, according to data from the Philippine Dealing System.

Traders said the appreciation of the peso was driven both by external and domestic factors.

On the external front, investors' chosen cold foreign investors were scouting for higher-yielding instruments. The Philippines and other developing countries in Asia were a favorite of hedge funds and investment houses given the outlook that the region will still drive growth of the global economy this year.

Many investors patiently waited as the sidelines last year as the global economic turmoil made it preferable for many to hold on to their cash.

With the gradual recovery of the global economy since the start of the year, traders said investors have been aggressively looking for places to invest their money in.

"Emerging economies like the Philippines are now the darling of the market," said Mercedes Iñiguez, senior vice president at Bank of Commerce and Banking Corp.

He said developing Asia, which depends on the US and European economies for their exports, is benefiting from projections of a gradual recovery in the West. The expected modest

PESO B2

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Ayala Land net profit rose 34% to ₱2.51B in 1st half

Firm notes strong residential sales

By Paolo G. Montecillo

AYALA LAND Inc. posted a 34-per-cent jump in net profit in the first half to ₱2.51 billion from ₱1.87 billion a year ago due to the strong sales of its residential projects.

The real estate subsidiary of conglomerate Ayala Corp. said earnings of ₱1.32 billion in the second quarter were also a record high and 1.6 percent higher than the ₱1.3 billion in the first quarter.

Its consolidated revenues for the first half reached ₱54.43 billion, 29 percent up from a year earlier, largely due to the strong growth in the firm's residential and construction businesses.

"Our positive results in the first half of the year reflect the growth achieved across our businesses. The fundamental drivers of the property market as a whole are supportive of our expansion plans and so far I believe that our business units have been executing very well," ALI president and CEO Ayalatres T. Aguino said. "We will continue to push forward with our growth strategy, building our presence in key growth centers around the country in order to further strengthen our market positions and deliver on the goals we have committed to our investors."

The Company's leasing operations in shopping centers, offices and hotels likewise performed well and contributed to overall revenue growth.

Residential revenues reached ₱6.56 billion for the first six months, 25-percent higher than the ₱5.05 billion reported during the same period last year, with strong growth in bookings exhibited by Ayala Land Premiere (ALP), Alveo and Avida.

The company launched 7,109 residential units in the first six months, 76 percent of the company's original target of 9,275 units for 2015.

"We expect demand in the residential sector to remain strong, thus we have increased our full-year target to 20% to nearly 13,000 units," said Aquino.

Total revenues for shopping centers increased to ₱2.38 billion for the first half of 2015, 6-percent higher than in the same period last year.

This was driven by the opening of the new SM Aura Mall in Fort Bonifacio. The improved occupancy rates at Greenbelt 5 in Makati and Market Market! in Taguig City also more than offset the closure of Glorietta 1, which is being renovated.

Revenues from the company's office building portfolio reached ₱948 million in the first six months of 2015, compared with ₱788 million for the same period last year. The 7-percent improvement in office building revenues was generated by the significant growth in occupied space by business process outsourcing firms.

"We remain confident that the residential sector will remain strong, thus we have increased our full-year target to 20% to nearly 13,000 units," said Aquino.

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Aboitiz holding firm posts 149% profit jump

ABOITIZ EQUITY Ventures (AEV) more than doubled its net profit in the second quarter as the strong performance in its power generation and banking subsidiaries more than offset losses by its transportation unit.

In a disclosure, the company said it ended the second quarter with a consolidated net income of ₱5 billion, an increase of 149 percent year-on-year.

Out of the total earnings contributions from the business segments, power accounted for 78 percent, thanks shares of the banking and food groups seen at 11 percent and 10 percent, respectively, offsetting the negative contribution of the transport group," the company said.

Core profit, which strips out mark-to-market gains or losses, reached ₱5.5 billion or 10% percent higher than the ₱2.1 billion the company made in the same three-month period a year earlier.

For the first semester, AEV's core earnings were at ₱11.4 billion, up 29% percent year on year.

The holding firm's power generation and distribution unit, Aboitiz Power, had an income contribution of ₱9.7 billion in the first half, a significant increase from ₱1.1 billion in the same period last year.

The Therma Luzon geothermal power plants, which were turned over to Aboitiz Power in May 2009, had a full six months' contribution in 2015.

In addition, fresh contributions from the Pagbilao coal-fired power plant, the power barges, new unit of the Albulan hydro power plant and two units of the Cebu coal-fired power plants augmented Aboitiz Power's net generation for the period, the company said.

AEV's financial services group contributed net earnings of ₱984 million in the first semester of 2015, recording a 7-percent improvement from previous year's ₱919 million.

Boni G. Montecillo

MPIC to raise up to ₱8B in bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

MONO BONO—Metro Pacific Investments Corp. is planning to debut on the Philippine bond market this year or next to raise up to ₱8 billion in fresh funds to boost various infrastructure businesses.

In a briefing at the head office of the company's parent First Pacific Co. Ltd. yesterday, MPIC chief finance officer David Ansel said the bond funding first would have a lot of room to borrow given its low leverage ratio of 8 percent against an equity level of ₱84 billion after the conversion to equity of some outstanding bonds.

He noted that operating units like Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), Philippine Infrastructure, could raise funds for their own capital outlays, adding that Metro Pacific Tollways Corp.'s unit operating the North Luzon Expressway can refinance its ₱5 billion debt.

However, Ansel said MPIC would have to fish out money for other railway projects at MRT3, as well as support for other hospital acquisitions.

MPIC's hospital group, which now operates the country's biggest chain of premium hospitals with 1,300 beds, plans to ramp up operations to build a larger network of 10 hospitals in five years.

"All told, MPIC has 5%, 57 of maybe 190 billion overall funding requirement in the next two years and we can do that through bond tap," Ansel said.

"We can do that through the banking system or possibly go through the bond market because we haven't gone to the bond market and we can do that domestically and internationally. Obviously, it appeals to go to the local bond market because we're getting funds for local infrastructure projects," he said.

Ansel said MPIC was now talking to various banks on the matters local offering proposal.

"It's a question of optimal timing for us. It's too early to say what but we'll go this year or next year," he said.

While now is seen as a good time to firm into the domestic capital market while interest rates are in a all-time low and ahead of the expected unwinding of lax monetary policy by central banks, Ansel said MPIC would like to avoid incurring a negative carry if funds were raised too early ahead of actual use.

Negative carry refers to the condition when the cost of borrowing money exceeds the return obtained from it.

"It's a very good time to go now but the only challenge to that is if we go now and we're not immediately deploying funds, we'll incur negative carry and potentially spend all the money you will save from holding a very low rate," he said.

Gov't reviews ₱38B ...

From page B1

the proposal to have such a fiscal policy in the President as well as in the Department of Budget and Management, the National Economic and Development Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry.

In the interest of transparency and accountability Almeda-Arao stressed that they wanted all details of existing and proposed projects to be disclosed. It should also be made clear that while incentives would be put in place to entice investors, the Philippine government would not incur losses from these, he added.

In the case of Manila, the DOF recently snipped the review of the budget for the project, which was supposed to connect the Manila shipbuilding facilities to the Laguna grid.

"I'm asking for a technical review [of the Manila project] although there is an attachment to all the documents of a third party appraisal. Recently, I found somebody who is willing to search for us to go down the process of the notification," Montenegro said.

Peso rallies to 44.89 ...

From page B1

rebound of industrialized economies are expected to fuel interest in Asia as well.

And since the growth in the economies of the United States and Europe are expected to accelerate, investors now prefer developing countries, especially those from Asia.

On the domestic front, Ayo said, the optimism brought by the swearing in of the new administration has also lifted appetite for corporate bonds, sovereign bonds and even stocks from the Philippines.

"The confidence in the economy since the start of the new administration has sealed the rise of the peso, which was already being boosted by positive external factors," Ayo said.

Jonathan Ravelas, market strategist at Banco de Oro, said investors were pleased with positive macroeconomic fundamentals in the Philippines, such as a benign inflation environment and expectations of much faster growth this year.

Disclosures

MANGALAM CEMENT has disclosed the buyback of 28,000 shares or ₱2.73 per share, the buyback of 10,000 shares at ₱2.80 per share and the buyback of 100,000 shares at ₱2.82 per share on Aug. 6, in line with the company's share buyback program.

Vantage Equities Inc. has disclosed the buyback of 75,000 shares at ₱1.38 per share and the buyback of 300,000 shares at ₱1.40 per share on Aug. 6, in line with the company's share buyback program.

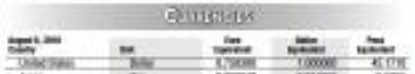
Team Oslo Oil and Energy Development Corp. disclosed on Aug. 4 the resignation of Fundoni M. Nerik as the company's owner consultant.

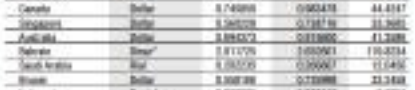
Union Bank of the Philippines Inc. has disclosed the resignation/retirement of Elmer delaRosa, Jr. as the company's first vice president, effective Aug. 1 and the resignation/retirement of Gerardo Clarence O. Santiago as the company's vice president, effective July 31.

GMA Learning and Finance Inc. has disclosed the resignation of Antonio O. Isidro Jr. as the company's compliance officer, effective July 31. The company also disclosed the appointment of Evelyn L. Villanueva as additional member to the Executive Committee, the appointment of Georgiana A. Gamboa as senior vice president, effective Aug. 1, and the appointment of Sergio M. Dela Cruz as executive vice president & compliance officer, effective July 22.

Compiled by Scholar Gondale, Jessamie Manuarii

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE





CURRENCIES

August 1, 2015 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	₱ 44.8900	1.000000	44.8900
Japan	Yen	₱ 0.3699	0.021998	0.3699
United Kingdom	Pound	₱ 69.9211	1.556900	71.8038
Hong Kong	Dollar	₱ 5.7897	0.128936	5.8197
Switzerland	Franc	₱ 47.0871	0.986189	43.1721
Canada	Dollar	₱ 37.0000	0.824018	44.4347
Singapore	Dollar	₱ 33.0000	0.734736	33.0445
Australia	Dollar	₱ 34.0000	0.833800	41.3386
Bahrain	Dinar*	₱ 119.1776	2.653501	119.8734
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	₱ 11.9700	0.266567	11.9416
Brunei	Dollar	₱ 33.0000	0.735000	33.0468
Indonesia	Rupiah	₱ 0.0000	0.000112	0.0051
Thailand	Baht***	₱ 1.3000	0.029100	1.3090
UAE	Dirham	₱ 12.2214	0.272157	12.2581
EU	Euro	₱ 49.0000	1.134000	50.9020
Korea	Won	₱ 0.0000	0.000857	0.0387
China	Yuan**	₱ 7.1999	0.161000	6.5154
Denmark	Krone	₱ 6.5000	0.150967	7.0933
India	Rupee	₱ 0.7000	0.015711	0.6967
Malaysia	Ringgit	₱ 10.0000	0.219857	14.2137
New Zealand	Dollar	₱ 30.0000	0.710000	33.1888
Sweden	Krona	₱ 5.0000	0.110400	5.3447
Taiwan	NT Dollar	₱ 0.0000	0.000470	1.4110

Source: Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) - Aug 1, 2015 ** Peso Equivalent as of Aug 1, 2015 *** Peso Equivalent as of July 31, 2015

GIR hit $48.6B in July, up 21%

OFW remittances provide boost

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE COUNTRY's reserves of foreign currencies, which indicate the Philippines' ability to import and engage in other commercial transactions with the rest of the world, settled at a "very comfortable" $48.6 billion as of July, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The BSP said in a report released yesterday that the latest gross international reserves (GIR) were up 21 percent from the $40.17 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Monetary officials said the rise in the GIR was consistent with the modest global economic rebound.

Improving employment opportunities, and therefore, aggregate incomes of Filipinos working overseas, helped boost remittances sent to the Philippines, the BSP added.

Central bank officials also said the recovery has increased risk appetite of investors, thereby fueling foreign investments—mostly the portfolio type—in emerging markets like the Philippines.

Since the start of the year, hot money inflow has been increasing steadily they said.

The GIR as of July, however, marked a 0.3 percent decline from $48.79 billion in June.

The month-on-month fall was attributed to the drop in prices of gold in the international market, said the BSP.

The government also withdrew some of its foreign currency-denominated deposits from the central bank to pay off maturing liabilities.

Besides foreign currencies, gold also accounts for a portion of the country's GIR.

Reports said that average gold price fell to $1,169 per ounce in July from $1,231 in June.

Data from the central bank showed that gold accounts for nearly 14 percent, or $6.68 billion, of the country's GIR.

According to the monetary authority, the level of foreign exchange reserves provides the country some comfort about its capacity to buy imported goods and services, and settle debts.

Available reserves are enough to cover nine months worth of regular imports.

It is also 5.1 times the country's foreign currency-denominated debts maturing within a year.

The reserves thus exceed the international benchmarks related to foreign currency-denominated obligations.

In a study, the Asian Development Bank said foreign exchange reserves should be worth at least four months of imports.

Countries with reserves exceeding the four-month threshold may thus consider investing portions of the country in more productive activities to benefit their economies.

The International Monetary Fund echoed suggestions to invest part of foreign exchange reserves in infrastructure and sovereign wealth funds, among other potentially higher-yielding areas.

In the case of the Philippines, its reserves are invested only in virtually risk free assets, largely US Treasuries, gold and deposits.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the central bank was studying proposals on how to make the country's GIR generate more yields.

However, he added, investing into other forms of investments would require amendment of the BSP charter.

The BSP charter states that the BSP may only invest in government securities, deposits and gold.

Breaktime

From page B1

government does not give a single centavo of subsidy to local airlines.

Abroad, such as the Middle East and China, the government subsidizes their airlines. With all the advantages, subsidy and tax breaks, why can they not just raise rates?

Now, those pinning airlines also fly to Manila. Does the administration dare to impose taxation on them by canceling their permits to fly here? They are doing bad, after all.

It seems the Supino (Part II) administration cannot do any of that. It may appear to be pro-business or even architect. It is bad for public image. There is already this little problem over Laiviss.

Airline fracture

IF YOU listen hard to the ramblings in the Aquino (Part II) administration about the unsolved flights of PAL, you can hear a clear pattern forming.

The guys down here in my homeguy are getting a lot of pushback from some Palace boys that, in effect, they are only after the "national interest."

Apparently, "national interest" is the reason why the government must stop into the messy issue of canceled flights that leaves thousands of passengers stranded.

But careful not to show any leaning toward a private corporation like PAL, the Aquino (Part II) administration can only leave the problem hanging.

Say, eh, despite all those end-to-end meetings at the Palace, called by the President himself, Benigno Simeon Aquino III, the problem remains.

The public, whether locals or tourists, still does not have enough domestic flights, which means that people are still stranded. Whew!

* * *

HOME ENOWA is the matter here, and I think it is the absence of decisiveness. The new administration is pretty listening, to say it mildly. Its boys are talking about everything...such as whether limit it is—but not about the solution.

In bright with, the problem is the subordinate ignorance of PAL pilots by a couple of foreign airlines. Terribly uninformed, PAL must cancel some flights.

All of a sudden, somebody bright in the DOTC figures his mouth is only to say that the Aquino (Part II) administration will allow foreign airlines to operate DOL routes.

Perhaps the genius is really after public convenience, and has to not just set loose by foreign powers that are salivating for those sweet airlines to grab the business of two national flag carriers.

Anyway, somebody please tell the what kid that what he is proposing is against the law. Any foreign airline needs a franchise here to operate domestic routes.

They are also talking about lawsuits against PAL, which by admission makes sense if can do, no problem, because PAL has a government franchise.

Gerardo R. Bacud III

What's minute here, just wait a freaking minute. Who is doing bad now?

* * *

FIGHT what I gathered, something that apparently this administration considers as disregard, PAL actually spends a lot of money for pilot training.

For one, PAL is the only local airline that operates a flying school. It takes PAL seven years at a cost of P35 million to produce a top class pilot.

No wonder then, among the local airlines, PAL is the only target of pirating. Just double them just Something like that!

The problem is that, because PAL spends a fortune on their training, the pilots are under contract. Again—it is a "contract." It is legally binding.

After all, any business that spends a lot of money for personnel training, want to recover the investment. There is not other way.

The pilots therefore are required to stay with PAL for at least five years, and if after five years they want to leave, they must give PAL notice of at least six months in advance. This, in essence, is a contract.

Despite all the blabbering of the administration boys, the fact remains that the pilots still have a few contract with PAL, period.

* * *

FOR A struggling airline like PAL (2009 losses at P300 million), the scheduling of flights is everything, thus timing passenger load with every flight.

That is why the pilots suffer late fines for early booking—for advance scheduling of flights. In this way, they are at the mercy of lazy personnel like pilots.

Pilots have limited working hours. A pilot for instance can just punch his for another. There is hardly any overtime in the cockpit.

You are, based on safety rules of the International Civil Aviation Organization, or the ICAO, commercial pilots can fly only a certain number of hours, such as not more than a thousand hours a year, or not more than a hundred hours a month.

I do not know about other airlines but I know that PAL follows such international safety standards.

It is hard for airlines to explain their pilots immediately, much more if their pilots are pirated wholesale by another airline. That much is understood in the business.

Now the pilots get their license from the government, through the CAAP (Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines), much like medical doctors.

If a doctor abandons his post in the hospital, and has patient dies, guess what sanctions he faces from the government. Yes, his license will be revoked!

You have a driver's license? You killed somebody in the street? There goes your license.

So we want a fair remedy to the canceled PAL flights? Well, how about our government including those pilots in some hush in the country and fulfill their contracts with PAL.

Or else . . . well, CAAP can already revoke their licenses. The public is suffering, right?

* * *

PAL is paying the pirated pilots a salary of $5,000 to $6,000 a month. The foreign airlines reportedly offer to double their pay—but free.

One of them is based in Hong Kong. Filipino airline pilots based overseas do not pay income tax here. Only Filipino pilots based here pay the 32 percent income tax.

It does not matter that the Filipino pilots based overseas are here with their families most of the time. Basta, employed by foreign airlines? Tax free!

See, the government itself is encouraging pirating of pilots from local airlines. To think, the

BREAKTIME

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit I (Ilocos Region)
City of San Fernando (La Union)

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 40,000 PCS. CERTIFIED CARABAO MANGO SEEDLINGS

The DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REGIONAL FIELD UNIT I intends to apply for the supply & delivery of 40,000 pcs. Certified Carabao Mango Seedlings in the sum of Php1,000,000.00 being the approved budget for the contract (ABC) to qualified suppliers for contract for the supply & delivery of 40,000 pcs. Certified Carabao Mango Seedlings. Delivery of the goods is required within 5 days from receipt of the Purchase Order. The submission of an eligible bidder is conditioned to the Bidding Documents, particularly, to Section 23 hereinafter to be given.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from DA-RFU I Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during regular office hours. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the Secretariat during the period from August 2 to August 13, 2010 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and submit their bids not later than 10:00 A.M. of August 13, 2010. The method of payment will be cash through Cash.

The DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REGIONAL FIELD UNIT I will use a Pre-Bid Conference on August 11, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at DARFU I Conference Room, Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit I, Quirino Road, Dacalo Area, San Fernando, La Union which is open only to all prospective bidders who have duly purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before August 13, 2010, 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stipulated in Section 27.2 of the Revised IRR of RA 9184. Bid opening shall be on August 13, 2010 10:00 a.m. at DARFU I Conference Room, Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit I, Quirino Road, Dacalo Area, San Fernando, La Union. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid validity shall be for one hundred (100) days from the date of bid opening.

The DA-RFU I reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, declare null the bidding process, declare failure of bidding at any time prior to the contract award, or not award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding. Likewise, it reserves the right to waive the minor deviations that do not affect the substantial requirements of the bid and to accept or reject any item or group of items. Further, it reserves the right to waive the qualifications of the bidders after the bidding procedures has started in accordance with section 41 of the Revised IRR of RA 9184. If the bidder is currently participating in a procurement activity with the DA-RFU I, the bidder is required to submit a post-qualification requirements as mentioned in Section 25.2(b)(iii) of the Revised IRR of RA 9184.

ATTY. LEPPANTO G. SANTIAGO, CESO III
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Quirino Road, Dacalo Area, City of San Fernando, La Union
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Sgd. ENGR. [illegible]
BAC Chairman

PUB. Aug. 7, 2010

Bank lending up in June

Strong local economy boosts loan demand

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said that credit remains adequately accessible and supportive of the country's growth goals, reporting that loans extended by banks posted an even faster pace of growth in June.

The total loan portfolio of universal and commercial banks (U.K.) for twenty amounted to P2.16 billion as of end-June, rising by 0.6 percent from P1.96 trillion in the same period last year.

The annual rate of increase is noticeably faster as compared from the 0.1 percent in May and 0.7 percent in April, the central bank said.

"The sustained expansion of bank lending reflects the strength

Manufacturing grabbed the biggest share of loans, at P567.87 billion, or 26 percent. The figure marked a nearly 6-percent increase from last year's.

Officials said the rise in lending to the manufacturing sector substantiated reports of improving global demand as the world economy slowly gradually from last year's recession. The electronics manufacturing sub-sector has reported substantial growth in exports since the start of the year due to recovery of demand offshore for consumer electronics, such as computers and mobile phones.

Meanwhile, outstanding loans to individual borrowers accounted for a smaller share of P1.60-trillion, which was up 1.3 percent year-on-year.

Loans to individuals basically are those used to purchase motor vehicles and residential units, and those that support credit card purchases. These also include payment of loans, which are used to pay for hospital bills, and school tuition, among others.

Given the continued rise in funds lending, the BSP said, domestic liquidity likewise posted a healthy pace of increase in June.

Overall liquidity in the domestic economy measured in terms of M2, grew by 10.2 percent to P3.07 trillion in June from a year ago. The growth was slightly slower than the 10.7 percent recorded in May, the central bank said.

Review of energy laws, taxes pushed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is recommending the review of some provisions of RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, as well as current tax structures affecting the power industry, in a bid to make the sector more attractive to investors.

DOE officials say power industry management becomes automatic investor friendly and getting credits and to be a big challenge for the industry, both on the supply and demand sides.

She added that both investors and consumers balked at the current pricing structure, with the latter saying it was not reflective of the

The provisions that had to be revised, she said, included those on lifeline rates, mandatory rate reduction on power purchased from the National Power Corp., condonation of loans of electric cooperatives, and the removal of cross-subsidies.

Yano that had to be reviewed, on the other hand, included the value-added tax on electricity, local government taxes, and real estate taxes imposed on power facilities.

She said the time-of-use pricing scheme should also be implemented by all distribution utilities, to allow electricity users to take advantage of lower rates during off-peak hours and days.

The DOE likewise recommended the passage of an anti-trust bill for the power sector, she further said.

Other DOE recommendations included the creation of a Reliability Council to ensure compliance of electric power industry players with their obligations as utilities, the establishment of a one-stop shop for energy investments, and the promotion of energy efficiency and demand-side management efforts.

Auto sector aims for regional integration

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE automotive competitiveness Council Inc. (PACCI) is defending an executive order outlining the country's motor vehicle development roadmap, saying that aims to better integrate the local automotive industry with the region and make it more competitive over the longer term.

In a statement issued yesterday PACCI executive director Jose Ascalon said EO 877-A, or the Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Development Plan, aimed to create a local industry that could compete with those in other countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

More than anything, he said the order intended for the Philippines to become the destination of choice both for auto assembly and auto parts manufacturing.

There has to be an upgrade in auto industry workers' skills, he said, to get international auto makers to consider manufacturing more models here. This could be done via accelerated technology transfer, which EO 877-A could facilitate.

He explained that to achieve these objectives, government help was essential.

"Even in an era of innovative outsourcing, the government still possible for government to help the auto sector.

This was primarily due to the nature of the auto industry, which has extensive and deep forward and backward linkages with various sectors of the economy.

These linkages meant that helping the auto industry would redound to helping the steel, rubber, plastics, glass, paint, electronics, and capital equipment industries on the back end, and the service and financing, dealership retail, logistics, advertising, repair and maintenance, after market sales, petroleum, and insurance industries on the front end.

"If one analyzes the importance that the automotive industry has on the economy, it lies somewhere in its owner because of these extensive backward and forward linkages. Few industries have such compelling [for linkages to the economy," Ascalon said.

EO 877-A also provided for the establishment of an industry fund for auto parts makers, a move that has been requested by the industry for the development and growth of the local auto industry.

Volvo XC60
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BUSINESS

DOF anticorruption drive gets underway

'Pera ng Bayan' website launched

By Bernadette V. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday officially launched a website dubbed Pera ng Bayan (People's Money) to enlist the public's active support for the Aquino administration's campaign against corruption.

The website, www.peangbayan.com, is linked with Facebook and Twitter accounts and also enables syndication through feeds in RSS format—an Internet technology means for widespread dissemination of content.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima announced the launch of the website Thursday night during a meeting of the Manila Overseas Press Club held at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati City.

Purisima said that the website was aimed at getting the public involved in the government's efforts at fighting tax evaders, smugglers, as well as erring officials and employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Customs.

"People power is at the heart of the Aquino administration," the finance chief said yesterday. "In the days to come, we will continue to develop ways to enlist as one region the public in being proactive watchdogs of the public's funds."

Purisima said the past have the biggest stake in anticorruption efforts since they were the ones hurt most when taxes and customs duties are not paid.

"Every peso of tax evaded is another child without a textbook, another rubber without a pair of boots, another pregnant mother without access to a proper clinic," he said.

"Every customer smuggled into our shores, is a peso less for a stronger police force to ensure our streets for our children, [and] for better roads and trains to ease the burden of travel," he added.

Pera ng Bayan harks back to the late 1970s in China when, following the death of Mao Zedong, activists were encouraging civilian citizens in government by placing posters on a so-called "Democracy Wall."

The homepage shows an old-fashioned, classroom-type blank chalkboard on which a person is about to write something.

Visitors to the website can file a report espousing either praise or complaint by clicking icons that say "Thumbs" (for praise) and "Sablatan" (complaint).

Visitors to the lower right hand corners of the web page are the words "Sikaralitasan (resolution); Isang walang corrupt, walang sablatan"... President Benigno C. Aquino III's campaign slogan.

Aside from the BIR and the BOC, the campaign also covers other agencies that are part of the DOF—Bureau of Treasury, Bureau of Local Government Finance, Millennium Challenge Account Philippines/Cooperative Development Authority, Privatization and Management Office, Insurance Commission, National Tax Research Center, Central Board of Assessment Appeal, Philippine Deposit Insurance Commission and Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency.

The reports filed are not shown to the public, but a web page shows a counter to monitor the number of filings.

"It is through participative mechanisms such as these that no longer could people as spion to be proactive," Purisima said. "You of course the best way for everyone to help the Aquino administration is to pay the right taxes."

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing
PROPERTY

Blazing the trail for real estate dev't

By Cynthia Cuna

DESIGN AND esthetics are sure to win the hearts, and pockets, of property buyers. What is visually pleasing translates to sure money. But these alone do not make for an excellent development. True enough, developers have gone the extra mile to give something worth our bucks. Some properties have already espoused green technology through developing eco-friendly building system as part of the global movement for climate change.

To give recognition to their valuable contribution to the Philippine real estate industry, a total of 17 projects were awarded "models of excellence" last Saturday in the 6th Philippine Real Estate Festival (PREF) inside the jampacked World Trade Center in Manila.

"Each project is cited for its contribution to today's real estate development scene, setting new standards in technology and de

BLAZING SEE 2

GRACING THE festival are (from left) Ed Saldaga, Mac Diaz, Dr Jaime Cura (chair of PREF board of advisers), lawyer Alex Lacson, Child Hero of the Year Elson Pulpulerde, architect Alan Cruz, Usec. Vicente Romano III, Rosario Bala, Karen Ramos, lawyer Raron Cas and Willy Arcilla.

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New weapon against diabetes

By Theresa S. Sanmiguel

A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, proper diet and exercise should be enough to keep the deadly and costly complications of diabetes at bay.

But sad result, however, is that more than half of Filipino patients with Type-2 diabetes are unable to achieve optimal blood sugar control with diet, exercise and even with their current medications.

Recognizing the need for "extra help," AstraZeneca, the fourth largest multinational pharmaceutical company in the Philippines, recently based its new drug that can provide consistent and comprehensive control of blood sugar levels—the saxagliptin.

In a briefing, AstraZeneca said saxagliptin belongs to its newest class of oral anti-diabetic drugs called DPP-4 (dipeptidyl peptidase) inhibitors.

Dr. Brian Strickler, senior director for Global Clinical Development at AstraZeneca, said the DPP-4 is an enzyme that inactivates the natural hormones in the body called incretins.

"Saxagliptin enhances the body's physiological response to sugar by prolonging the action of incretins," Strickler said.

Incretins, he explained, decrease glucagon and blood sugar (glucose) by increasing the body's release of insulin, mainly through increasing insulin production in the pancreas, and by reducing the liver's production of glucose.

"AstraZeneca is committed to developing effective treatments for Type-2 diabetes. We hope that saxagliptin can help more Filipino diabetics achieve comprehensive glycemic control," added Amal Kabbaldine, president of AstraZeneca Philippines.

Dr. Lolibel Mercado-Asis, president of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism (PSEM), also noted that saxagliptin is a welcome addition to the current range of oral anti-diabetes drugs as this can help provide that added glucose control some patients may need.

People afflicted with diabetes

At present, diabetes is estimated to affect 285 million people worldwide between the ages of 20 and 79, and this number is expected to further increase to 438 million by 2030.

In the Philippines alone, the number of Filipinos afflicted with diabetes is expected to further rise to 8.3 million within five years.

Meanwhile, global health expenditures to treat and prevent diabetes and its complications are projected to cost at least $376 billion and are expected to further rise to over $490 billion by 2030.

Given the staggering figures and the possible complications of diabetes, AstraZeneca has also stressed the importance and need to achieve "optimum glycemic control."

The company explained that in managing Type-2 diabetes, the so-called glucose triad is important as it helps doctors and their patients determine if they are achieving optimum glucose control.

The glucose triad referred to a set of measures critical in managing and controlling Type-2 diabetes. These are the Hemoglobin A1C (HbA1C), Fasting Plasma Glucose (FPG) and Postprandial Glucose (PPG) markers.

Most control of these three key parameters can lead to multiple diabetes complications such as kidney failure, heart attack, blindness and nerve damage.

Providing beneficial effect

Clinical studies show that saxagliptin can help achieve consistent and comprehensive blood sugar (glycemic) control by providing significant beneficial effects on the glucose triad.

"Either as monotherapy or combined with other commonly used oral anti-diabetic drugs, clinical studies show that saxagliptin consistently produced clinically relevant and statistically significant reductions in the three key measures of glucose control: HbA1C, fasting plasma glucose and postprandial glucose," Reyniold explained.

As saxagliptin has been made available in the Philippines, patients now will hopefully get their much-needed "extra help" in combat the deadly complications of diabetes.

For diabetics without lifestyle modification

WITH DIET and exercise, saxagliptin is meant to be taken once-a-day, add-on oral therapy with other oral anti-diabetic medications, including metformin, sulfonylureas and thiazolidinediones or TZDs (e.g. rosiglitazone and pioglitazone).

The new drug to maintain for diabetes patients who are unable to achieve optimal blood sugar control through lifestyle modification.

Saxagliptin was developed jointly by Bristol-Myers Squibb and AstraZeneca. The two companies received last September 2009 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for their new dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitor, saxagliptin.

"The Bristol-Myers/AstraZeneca Diabetes alliance is dedicated to global patient care, improving patient outcomes and creating a new treatment paradigm for patients with Type-2 diabetes," AstraZeneca explained.

In the Philippines however, AstraZeneca is solely marketing the saxagliptin since Bristol-Myers had already ceased its marketing operation in the country.

The two companies proposed the brand name Onglyza, which still serves as the trade name for saxagliptin.

The drug was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in July 2009 and by the European Medicines Agency (Emea or EMA) in October the same year. The Philippine FDA meanwhile approved saxagliptin only in May 2010.

Theresa S. Sanmiguel

What you should know about psoriasis

PSORIASIS IS one such medical condition that remains taboo in society for physical manifestations play a significant role in the public's preconceived notions about the disease. As such, there is a need to increase awareness and shed light on what psoriasis really is and how it affects the sufferer as well as the people surrounding him or her.

Psoriasis Philippines (PsorPhil) uncovers the basic facts on psoriasis.

What is psoriasis?

In a nutshell, psoriasis is a type of skin disease that results in scaling and inflammation, which can manifest as swelling, redness, heat or discomfort caused by the hastening of a bodily process called "cell turnover," wherein skin cells grow and develop deep within the skin and eventually move toward the surface.

Normally, cell turnover takes a month. In saxagliptin but for a person afflicted with psoriasis, the process speeds up and happens in mere days.

Psoriasis affects various parts of the body such as the knees, elbows, parts of the legs, scalp, lower back, palms and feet. The term commonly occurs such as to the fingernails and toenails, the mouth and the genitals.

Is psoriasis contagious?

Contrary to popular belief, psoriasis is not contagious. While experts say that certain conditions contain individuals are predisposed to get it, particularly those with a family history of psoriasis. For those individuals, certain ways of life serve as triggers in the development—starting with the spending up of cell turnover rate.

Making the condition worse for those afflicted with psoriasis are certain external factors like infections, stress, some medicines and even a change of weather that causes dryness.

While psoriasis has no definite or universal cure, it can be controlled depending on how severe the condition is. A doctor will need to diagnose the patient by looking at the size of the psoriasis patches, the type of the psoriasis or his/her reaction to certain medications.

Treatment

Generally, however, the treatment of psoriasis can be done in two ways:

✦ Topical—using prescribed creams, gels and ointments to reduce inflammation and cell turnover, allow the skin to peel away, help prevent scaling and soothe the skin for the comfort of the patient.

✦ Systematic—involving the prescription of drugs or vaccines or help ease symptoms. This is normally done for more serious cases of the condition.

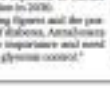
Hope for psoriasis sufferers

Today psoriasis research is growing and blossoming, with doctors and medical researchers looking into the roles of genes, promising new treatments and ways to avoid the are associated with the disease.

With the advances in modern medical technology, one can be comforted in the fact there is more to discover about psoriasis, and with new knowledge comes the possibility of developing better or more effective treatments.

Psoriasis Philippines is a non-profit organization for afflicted patients and their families, doctors and caregivers to provide support, advocate accurate information and educate the public on the disease. For more information, log on to http://www.psorphil.org.

Teenage addictions



MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

ADOLESCENTS AND teenagers go through a very dynamic stage in their lives in many aspects: physically, psychologically and emotionally.

The physical changes could be overwhelming to the average teen, like the change in one's voice, and the increase of the body to adult size, such that what used to be oversized shoes would fit anymore and the pants Mom bought a year ago are a couple of inches short already. While the hormonal surge, pimples, skin blemishes and all sorts of acne erupt on the face, neck and shoulders, frequently leaving pitted scars that aggravate one's self-image that needs reassurance in many areas.

Emotional turbulent upheavals can be an issue at this age, too, with a sense of exuberance brought about by a yearning to be treated like adults—being allowed to become more independent and make their own decisions. A stretched feeling of not being understood evokes the teen's latent behavior and need to up to make sometimes foolish choices and decisions. The teen's parents couldn't help but pray that their child would soon outgrow a confused and turbulent stage in his or her life.

Science shows that changes also happen in the teen's brain that make them more prone to be more adventurous and take more risks that they could handle. In some cases, the results are a parent's nightmare—the teen learning how to smoke, engaging in binge drinking, experimenting on drugs and having sex too soon. Quite a number of teens realize a bit too late that a single act of unbridled passion can result in a lifetime of misery and regret. They could only wish they knew better at the time.

Text-aholics

In the last several years, psychologists have also raised the concern that the youth are falling prey to another type of addiction, which can pose a different type of risk to teen health. Yes, the risk is quite different from that posed by smoking, drinking and other risky behaviors. Observing young people in the malls or in their schools, one would conclude that indeed many have become text-aholics. Reports say that with the promotional offers of telecom companies for unlimited text messages for a fixed fee, the average youth is sending more than 50 text messages daily. The more avid ones could send as much a hundred text messages in a single day.

Most likely these teens/youngsters are also staying up late at night, sometimes glossing their school assignments as they chat with their friends in social networking sites, or play the addicting games in these sites. Many suffer from sleep deprivation which affects their resistance, as they become more sickly. Performance in school also suffers.

Although cellular phones and social networking sites may also have a positive effect in the social development of the youth, these manners of "keeping connected" are obviously being abused by many to the point of addiction akin to substance abuse. Parents and elders have to increase discipline and temperance in these young adults, and should find ways to monitor and control their teen's cell phone and computer use.

Teens should realize that one important decision they can make at this point in their lives is to develop healthy habits which include eating the right food, being physically active, having adequate sleep at night and practicing moderation in everything. Most diseases in adults such as heart diseases, stroke and cancers are actually lifestyle diseases predominantly caused by unhealthy habits developed during the adolescent and teenage years. Training oneself to maintain a healthy lifestyle is probably the best long-term investment teenagers and young adults can make for themselves.

The youth, as they say is the nation's future. Hopefully, the nation's adults provide them the proper example to train them in the right direction.

Solve endocrine disorders to live healthier life, says expert

By Charles E. Rubio

AN ENDOCRINOLOGIST is probably one of the medical experts one should be well acquainted with.

Why? They are the best people to talk to regarding serious ailments that affect hormonal children and adults...unexplained slow growth in young children, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol disorders, goiter and even osteoporosis.

"Our endocrine system is a complex network comprised of integrated hormone-producing glands and organs. Endocrinologists are trained to diagnose and treat hormone imbalances and problems by helping restore the normal balance of hormones in a person's system," explains Dr. Estrellita Fernandez-Lopez, president of the Philippine Chapter of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.

The AACE is a professional community of doctors specializing in endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism and are committed to enhancing the ability of its members to provide the highest quality of patient care.

Significant part

Since 2006, AACEPhil members on the other hand devote a significant part of their career to the evaluation, treatment and management of patients with endocrine disease.

Lopez adds that understanding the endocrine system is crucial considering that they produce and release different types of hormones to maintain and control a number of important functions throughout the body including growth and development, metabolism and tissue function.

"A hormone imbalance—either too much or too little hormone will cause—can have a drastic effect on body function, life or the AACEPhil would be able to help a lot of Filipinos on how they could achieve optimum endocrine health by providing them leading-edge, proactive, ethical and cost-effective medicine," says Lopez who reports that their members are constantly updated with the latest developments by attending conventions and special courses both here and abroad.

She explains that endocrinologists are specially trained doctors and would be the best person to go to when treating conditions that are often complex and involve many systems in our body.

"Which is why primary care doctors often refer their patients to an endocrinologist the moment they spot a problem that point to the endocrine system," she says.

Health issues

The health issues endocrinologists are focusing on these days include diabetes and since the AACEPhil members are usually up on all the newest medications and treatments, they could prescribe insulins and/or medications, offer diet plans as well as advise individuals how to keep a close watch on his or her blood glucose levels.

Another important health condition is obesity and being overweight, considering these two are sometimes caused by metabolic and hormonal problems.

Lipid disorder is another ailment that endocrinologists are in a better position to help since patients with lipid disorders have trouble maintaining normal levels of body fats, like having high levels of total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (known as "bad" cholesterol), and/or triglycerides in the blood.

High levels of these fats are linked to heart disease, strokes, and problems with circulation in the legs.

Lopez informs that her members are looking forward to the 2nd Joint AACE and AACEPhil meeting, which will be held at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila on Aug. 19 to 20, saying that this will be another important event for Filipino endocrinologists to get updated on the latest studies and treats.

The art of gaming

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Benzinger Sanvictores

IF THERE is any form of gaming I don't do, its casino gambling. Okay, I'll admit that I've at least tried the slot machines a few times but I never mixed mixing on a table to flip cards or roll the dice in a game of chance.

I merely watch, just as I did again when I went to the Marina Bay Sands Casino in Singapore a few weeks back. The casino sits across the hotel: a three-tower assembly with a large shared roof deck more aptly called the "sky park." The hotel seems to be the main attraction in this complex because of its unusual structure and its glamour factor. It's all over the media since it opened to the public a few weeks ago.

Pretty cool

I'm not a big fan of the structure itself, but I thought the concept of the hotel was pretty cool spanning the length of four and a half Airbus A380 jumbo jets, sitting on all three separate buildings and cantilevering off their edges, sea pretty cool. Cooler was the fact that the sky park rests 200 meters above ground and provides views of the Singapore skyline.

I went over on a Saturday, and as expected, the place swarmed with guests. The mall, which is located adjacent to the casino and which was not fully operational at that time didn't hold much of the crowd as many of the locals seemed to prefer strolling the hotel lobbies and checking out the new restaurants.

Surprisingly the casino was not your typical Asian casino. Macau, the center of gambling in Asia, and the heart of design emphasis in the region. For example, it's quite eclectic in its opulence and it's kinda in the opposite of the Asian-hotel casino environment. Here, in Singapore, was a gaming facility that was a little more subdued than those of its Asian neighbors.

The casino building is all of four levels, had one such a large atrium in the center. The main circulation hallways of each level lines that large atrium, not only creating a sense of space, but allowing guests to experience the many activities from the various floors of the building. Visually, it is a very effective tool in encouraging people to move around, a feature that large sprawling casinos can't offer. The atrium, though, brings in very little light.

Carnival time

After all, casinos are meant to conceal time and confuse its players that they may get caught up and then completely lose themselves in their gaming activities. With the same intent, the casino entrance lobby is tucked far from this atrium and hardly visible from the other floors, concealing the natural light that manages to seep in.

The glitz in this facility is applied on the ceilings and railings of the corridors in the form of hand-applied silver leaf squares. With cove lights and other forms of indirect lighting, the silver leaf shimmers adding subtle hints of sparkle (as what would have otherwise been a large expanse of white ceilings. While the silver leaf softens the flat planes, the coffers and cove lights play with the heights and break the continuity of the surfaces.

Abroun recommend and mahogany wood veneer paneling at the outer perimeter wall of each floor (where an old world elegance). I thought this would have looked great had they been applied to the inner walls of the atrium as well, in order to introduce a little warmth to its visually frosty environment. More warmth is injected through the use of a busy red patterned carpet all throughout the gaming areas, probably the only feature that truly reminded me of the Macau and Las Vegas casinos.

THE LARGE void of the central atrium allows gamers to experience the activities happening on the other floors. Cove lights along the edge of each floor emphasize the contrasting edges.

With the blazing lights of the game machines and colorful table tops with all the gaming chips and accessories, the casino looks undoubtedly like one. Its subtle insertion though make it a more comfortable and environmentally acceptable one. In that case, its not too dizzying to sit around and watch.

Luxurious living in QC

LOOKING FOR a place in Metro Manila that practically has it all?

A place you can call "home" that's literally minutes away from work, school and leisure; a place that offers comfort and convenience usually available only in the suburbs and yet is at the very heart of the city; blissfully tranquil; a place that's safe, considering today's uncertain times, and a place where security is not a priority.

Well, look no further as 66 Roces, the newest luxury residential development from Filipino-owned Properties Philippines Inc., is set to offer these and more. Located on Roces Avenue in Quezon City, this 3.3-hectare residential enclave offers not only a much-needed space of lush greenery and stylish units but a real sense of community as well.

Hassle-free urban living

Amenities that make urban living hassle-free will soon be in place for future residents to enjoy. Among them are the children's playground and the fitness and wellness center residents could socialize. Here, you can spend the day basking in the cool waters of the adult pool or simply lose yourself in the tranquility of an landscaped garden.

There's also the one-of-a-kind "green gathering" that will underlie the whole ambiance. The green pathway is a landscaped area that will be designed for jogging and strolling—a perfect venue for keeping fit while in the middle of providing another opportunity for residents to get to know each other.

Moreover, considering the uncertain times, one can be assured of utmost security any time of the day. Adding to this security are measures such as 24/7 security system at the main gate which will have roving security guards and a perimeter wall that would separate the perimeter wall and the interior layers would done to give you first added security buffer.

Moreover, as part of the community's design, an elevated pavement fence will also be put in place to protect residents inside while simultaneously separating 66 Roces from the neighboring communities.

Finally, residents can also rely on the community's central observation—20 meters above sea level—to provide enough protection and safety from severe flooding similar to those which have devastated Metro Manila and its neighboring provinces recently.

ARTIST'S perspective of the modern-inspired clubhouse at 66 Roces

THE GREEN pathways designed for jogging and strolling

The area where 66 Roces is to be built, Roces Avenue in Quezon City—is just a short ride to the business centers of Ortigas and Makati. Strategically located within the heart of the city, it is near malls, restaurants and other venues for entertainment.

Premier medical institutions such as the Capitol Medical Center, Philippine Orthopedic Center as well as St. Luke's and Delos Santos hospitals are just a short distance away. Malls, like the Greenhills Shopping Center, as well as St. Paul University, Immaculate Conception Academy, Xavier Christian and Xavier Schools are just around the corner.

Green architecture is likewise at the very heart of 66 Roces. Once completed, all the units will be designed to make use of natural lighting and cross ventilation, thereby lessening dependence on artificial lighting and air conditioning. Unlike other residential enclaves, more outdoor spaces will be made available for the common use of residents.

Truly, 66 Roces is the ideal luxurious community that you have always dreamed of.

Century Properties undertakes major energy-efficiency project

CENTURY PROPERTIES Management Inc., one of the country's largest property management companies, has embarked on a mission to make its managed portfolio of over 40 buildings across the Philippines more energy-efficient.

The commitment was enabled by a commercial signing of the implementation contract on June 10 between Century Properties Management Inc., acting on behalf of the Pacific Star Condominium Corp., and Trane Philippines (Trane), both the Clinton Climate Initiative as guest witness.

Energy savings

Work has begun on the Pacific Star Building, the 20-year-old, 400,000-square-foot office building located in the center of Makati. By replacing existing chillers with new high-efficiency ones from TRANE, the building's total energy consumption will be reduced by 30 percent, while carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by 550 tons each year. As part of this project, TRANE has guaranteed that its chillers will reduce energy use and run on a refrigerant that is in line with global environmental standards set out in the Montreal Protocol.

The energy savings will enable the Pacific Star Building to pay back its investment in less than four years. CPMI plans to fit out energy-efficient equipment in its remaining managed buildings across the Philippines, with conversations from each building's condominium corporation, over the next two years.

GIZ, a project of the William J. Clinton Foundation, is assisting Century Properties on the project through its "Energy Efficiency Building Retrofit program." It is providing Century Properties with advice on the various technologies and financial mechanisms available, using global best practice examples, to help improve the building's energy efficiency.

"Century Properties Management Inc. has long made a commitment to pioneering energy-efficient solutions in its portfolio of professionally managed properties. In this particular case, we would've been champion and lead a consistently growing number of intelligent high-rise buildings across the Philippines in adopting the exact measures to significantly reduce the carbon footprints of its major and critical facilities/equipment which primarily contribute to pollution and ultimately global warming," said Asst. Gen. E. E. Antonio, dean and CEO of Century Properties.

"Win-win" proposition

"And of equivocal relevance, reducing energy cost parallel to implementing the same measures. It is a 'win-win' proposition and almost a guarantee to become a precedent," Antonio added.

CPMI is managing 17 buildings. Incorporated in 1989, it was the first independent property management company to introduce international standards to the local property market. This combination of homegrown experience, local knowledge and international expertise makes CPMI a recognized leader in property management. Notable buildings it manages include landmarks such as the Asian Development Bank, Philippine Stock Exchange, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, Globe Telecom Office and Technical Hubs in Makati and Cebu, BPI Buendia Center, Pacific Star Building and Eastwood Bani Parkway.

Blazing the trail for real estate dev't

Viewpoint B3-4

ago, new directions, threats and possibilities. These projects also promote awareness and commitment in the community to answer the ever-growing needs of the industry and society as a whole," noted Ireland-born Rosemarie Bass in an exclusive interview with inquirer Property.

On its second year, the Models of Excellence is part of the annual real estate festival that gathers major industry players of the country's real estate and tourism sectors.

Due recognition

"There are properties and projects developers who are often not given due credit that they deserve. We usually look at the roles they are making and who makes the biggest numbers. We are oblivious to the industry that they bring. They bring the life and the vibrancy to the community and subdivision," said Bass, who is also the vice president of the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Association International Foundation (Creba Int'l).

The festival, which has for its theme, "Global Trends and Future Industry Options: Boundless Industries for the Philippine Economy," draws a large crowd of 10,000 people. Various speakers from abroad and big industry players also graced the three-day event.

According to Bass, the festival was successful in bringing the industry players, both from real estate and tourism, in a collaboration that it long needed to rev up the growth of our national economy.

"Tourism and real estate are anchored to each other; one cannot go without the other. Good thing there are developers are coming into paradise and not by the new administration of President Aquino," Bass furthered.

Benefiting from the proceeds of the festival was the Salesian of Don Bosco Technical Institute, Inc., which will be given assistance to assist housing through loans. They were also given 2 hectares of land in Pampanga.

Six categories

The excellence awardees are grouped into six categories: technical and structural; design and esthetics; community and society; environmental and ecological; management, marketing and finance; and education and public information.

Citing technical innovations, applications and development of new standards in the conservation of physical structures, Lighthouse Marina Resort, Development Bank of the Philippines Executive Office Building in Global City Taguig and Discovery Ridge in Tagaytay City topped the technical and structural category.

DBP Building, Summit Ridge and The Statue of Jesus also were given recognition in the design and esthetics category for their outstanding building of conventional design operation and overshadowing the ordinary systems.

Rounding up this year's awardees in their respective categories were:

- Community & Society for enhancing and revitalizing the quality of life of the residents, as well as industrial and commercial zones that open up more economic opportunities for the investor: Ayala Land Inc.'s Nuvo, One Pacific Place and Isla Cirras Golf Course Community by Isla Hera Properties, Inc./Mainland Development Corp./Leonid Kalinga Projects, Today at Dan Ramos Street Children Village, Italian Bay Free Port Zone, Rockwell Garden by Rockwell Land Corp., Pilot multi-lane, Duara Del Rio owned by the Liceo de Cagayan University.
- Environmental & Ecological for developing architectural designs that duly address prevailing natural conditions and employment of environment-friendly systems of building and constructing, execution of projects without necessarily destroying the surrounding balance of nature: Strikeoff Bean, Bahaside Zoo, DBP Executive Office Building, Manila Polo Club Redevelopment, Today sa Dan Ramos Street Children Village and the Subic Bay Free Port Zone.
- Effective Project Management, for their involvement in the completion of projects under the oversight of project whether in the development/construction stage or in the full operations resulting in the efficient employment and control of materials, manpower, services, outsourcing, time and cost: Nuvasta Corporate Headquarters Redevelopment owned by Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc.
- Education & Public Information: Urban Zone: Bayan Productions and Project 1st Home by SteelTech Productions Inc.

The excellence awards also gave recognition to Representative Awards: Engineering, Realville Valencia, and Eduardo Z. Jalandoni, who have likewise been awarded for the passage of both HBA 9846, RA 7742, RA 9004 and RA 9997 that would professionalize the practice of real estate service.

PREVENTING LEPTOSPIROSIS WITH KLERAT

For many living spaces, rat and mice control is a major concern. They can cause damage, especially to electrical wires. They are dirty and they have the tendency to bring disease into homes. Even more are your homes, they introduce fleas or ticks that may have them to destroy plants, animals, walls, furniture and more. They are also considered as a major source of leptospirosis, which can spread to people. In 2009, after tropical storm Ondoy hit Luzon, there were reports of 31 deaths and 1,000 cases of leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a deadly disease which affects the kidney and liver, caused by contamination due to rat urine. With symptoms that are similar to dengue, leptospirosis can be fatal if not treated properly and quickly. Symptoms include sudden onset of fever and muscle aches, red eyes (caused also by bright lights), chills and fever. Eventually, severe complications of the heart, eyes and central nervous system may also manifest.

Now that it is the rainy season all over again, the local farm of leptospirosis prevention is to keep your surroundings clean and free from rats. One of an effective rats and mice killer is the Klerat.

Klerat is a ready to use bait and mice bait that comes in different forms, pellets, pillow packs and blocks. It is a single dose anticoagulant rodenticide for the control of rodents and mice. Klerat is effective in as little as one feeding. It is safe to use around children and pets. Klerat comes in tamper resistant packaging. It is safe to use bait stations. It can also be used in tracking powder. Klerat is manufactured by Liphil Distribution and Marketing Corporation. You may call 02-8438-0000 or visit www.liphil.com.

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Hargrove

The Philippine Green Building Initiative

THE PHILIPPINES is undergoing an unprecedented rise in construction activity. This is a welcome development for architects and the construction industry as a whole. However, this is not necessarily a positive development for the environment. As we know, many projects and developments are not green and sustainable. And yet, many developers market their projects as ecologically-friendly, without any justification.

How do we know these whether a building or project is green or not?

By developing standards and a rating system that will clearly project these objectives, to protect the public and ultimately the environment.

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GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Armando de Jesus

In this regard, a group of professionals organizations have banded together to form what is now known as The Philippine Green Building Initiative (PGBI), an objective, impartial body dedicated to developing a locally adapted rating system based on internationally accepted standards for green buildings.

The PGBI is tasked to review, evaluate and rate buildings as to their sustainability in terms of site development, energy use, water consumption, improved indoor air quality and use of green materials, etc.

Purely professional organizations

The member organizations of PGBI are the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP)—President architect Ramon Sibucao, with architects Cinderella Penaranda and Amando de Jesus; the Philippine Society of Ventilating Air-conditioning & Refrigerating Engineers (PSVARE)—past presidents of PSVARE and founding members of PGBI: engineers Larry Pascubal and Jhun Ramis and incumbent PSVARE president engineer Manny Reyes.

The Philippine Chapter of the American Society of Heating Refrigerating & Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)—President engineer Jim Baey; the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines (IIEE)—President Greg Garcesto; the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID)—architect Arlet de Guzman; the Geological Society of the Philippines—Redempta Beltran; the Heritage Conservation Society led by President Gemma Cruz-Araneta and the International Council of Monuments & Sites (Icomos) led by President architect Augusto Villalon.

The PGBI was formed by PRE-accredited professional organizations led by their presidents so they can take the lead in developing standards which shall form the basis for the rating system.

The PGBI structure allows objectivity and accountability since the incumbent head of each professional member organizations will always be a part of the rating body.

No conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest in the set-up of PGBI since the professional organizations do not own any of the proposed projects that will be rated.

UAP-GAM

The Green Architecture Movement of the UAP serves as the pool of speakers and resource-persons for the PGBI.

PGBI green goals

The Philippine Green Building Initiative seeks to promote sustainability in the built environment and raise environmental awareness among developers, designers and builders when they start project conceptualization and design, as well as during construction and retrofitting.

It seeks to encourage the adoption of green building technologies developed, designed and approved by the Philippine professionals in the building industry.

A system of awards and recognitions will be set up to encourage the design and construction of more green buildings.

It will set up the program for the continuing education of the Philippine Green Building professionals system.

Climate Change Commission

Secretary Heherson Alvarez, presidential adviser on global warming and climate change, seeing the dedication of PGBI, has tapped the group's expertise and has included it in the National Framework Strategy for Climate Change.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail Armando dejesus@gmail.com.

AN ENERGY AUDIT using a thermal imager to show temperature range and thermal sensitivity is one effective way to measure a building or home. The device shows flaws as well as the image with a visual image making it easy to repair and explain problems to building owners and clients.

Shower toilet seat for the elite

HARDLY ANY other designer and architect stirs up so much admiration as the French cultivable Philippe Starck. He owns his outstanding reputation to life determination to "give the best to the maximum number of people" while faced with the paradox of a design which was seen to be intended only for an elite.

Philippe Starck is no newcomer to the world of personal hygiene and care. He first got involved with the bathroom and cleaning area in 1994 when he joined forces with Duravit, the German manufacturer of bathroom and wellness products.

From the simple tool of bidet to the luxury toilet bidet—all the bathroom furnishings bear Philippe Starck's signature at different price levels. On May 26, the designer presented his first shower-toilet unit, the "StarckWash" bidet," in Shanghai.

WC, bidet

The shower-toilet unit has an unusual, fluid and slim-line design that curves gently up into the wall and has finish—as an elegant oil-varnished panel. To ensure the correct flow of the clear liters, the technical components have been minimized to the same rectangular fits between the external body and the unit. It's only when you actually look inside the WC that you see the stainless steel spray wand that is part of the bidet function.

There are three different types of wash to choose from: the Ladycomb warm water jet for a particularly gentle wash that is specially designed to meet the needs of female users. The Bourwash leaves you feeling fresh and clean. Last but not least, the Comfortwash is the most attractive wash that cleanses with the lowest and backward movement of the spray wand so with a pulsating water jet. Water temperature, water volume and spray wand position can all be individually adjusted and, once saved, are easy to select again, feeling clean and fresh, the next stage is the drying process. The spray wand and nozzles are cleaned automatically before and after each use. Philippe Starck attached particular importance to the design of the stainless steel intuitive remote control, which can be used to operate all functions, ranging from the Comfortwash to the Warm Air Dryer.

The remote control is a silver-colored, elegant cultural as big per thin your hand. The keys are ergonomically flat and feel pleasure to the touch.

"We prefer to use Holcim concrete for our projects," declares Phinma Property Holdings Corporation (PHINMA PROPERTIES) President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Willie J. Uy.

With their cast-in-place system, PHINMA PROPERTIES assures a faster turnover of condominium units to its buyers. Its latest project, Sofia Bellevue, is proof of this commitment. "Our projects are normally completed within a year due to the building system that we employ which allows us to build quickly and efficiently," Mr. Uy explains.

The major benefit of using Holcim is that it assures fast turnover without compromising the strength and quality of the product.

"Basically, the condominium units are made of concrete. I would say easily 50-60% of the cost of the building is concrete and this is why we use Holcim's high early strength concrete. We can build a floor every 11-14 hours."

PHINMA PROPERTIES takes their commitment to quality a step further through value engineering. "We're doing building information modelling," Mr. Uy shares, "We find design flaws and immediately correct them before construction even begins."

With its tagline, City Living Made Easy, Phinma PROPERTIES has provided Filipinos with high quality, affordable housing choices for over fifteen years. PHINMA PROPERTIES' Project Planning Manager, Mr. Pete Pallo, describes their goal in two words: convenience and value. Phinma Properties gives Filipinos an opportunity to own their condominium unit at the same cost as renting a unit in Metro Manila. "For what you are paying, you get 50% more than area and it's yours!" adds Mr. Uy.

Mr. Uy says that PHINMA PROPERTIES is focused on being a company that provides high quality homes and builders of wholesome communities.

"Value engineering is something we do and we are taking it a step further"

Willie J. Uy, PHINMA PROPERTIES

PHINMA PROPERTIES delivers high-class quality at half the price by investing in training. Uy explains, "We're the first and only developer with a triple ISO certification for the Quality, Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Management systems." This is important because workers are trained to follow every step of the building system to ensure high class quality.

By the end of year, PHINMA PROPERTIES expects to unveil the largest solar powered installation with net metering capability in the Philippines. Sofia Bellevue's clubhouse will have solar panels on its roof to power 100% of the facility's energy. The pool's electricity requirements, he tells us, "We want to do things that will separate us from our competitors."

Mr. Uy says, "We're very happy with our business relationship with Holcim. This is a partnership that we have shared over the years." With Holcim Concrete and PHINMA PROPERTIES, the mid-market segment can expect high quality units, sustainable communities and an opportunity for every Filipino to create a better life for his family.

To know more about Holcim Concrete and how it can help your business, contact Holcim today:

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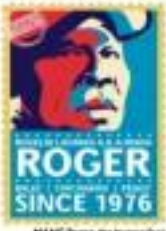
Mang Roger
–from 'balut' vendor to Bedan icon

Since 1976, he's been a fixture at the school; now, Bedans pay tribute to him through a shirt



MANG Roger, the humor/fact of Bedan camaraderie

By Luis Carlo San Juan

WHO is Mang Roger? For Bedans, especially those studying in Mendiola, he is the balut vendor. He has become the unofficial Bedan icon by being always present at Red Lion games.

A Bedan's NCAA opening would not be the same without him. Forever the lucky guy being given a Pantone shirt, Mang Roger has always been there to support the school team—while wearing even more suit.

He balut is considered a Bedan delicacy. He has been selling balut since 1976, when Sen Bedz was still an all boys school and the grade school and high school departments were still in Mendiola. Circa 1 p.m., the would-be Arete come out and go straight to Mang Roger, then stationed by the phone booth, selling his balut and chatterers merienda.

He has become the human face of Bedan brotherhood, it is in his small place where you are all those lovely come together and just have a fun chat with him.

The kids would ask their "lucyo" to open their bag of chichanera so even leave their bags with him while they go and play. Mang Roger would call on them once their school hours are ready to leave.

When his only son, Jayson, died in a motorcycle accident with cancer a decade ago, a lot of Bedans pitched in to help, and also offered sentiments when his wife passed away.

Now, Bedans of all stripes are showing their gratitude in this simple man for his seven-odding support to the community with the "Mang Roger" shirt.

Designed by Red Thread, the woody shirt pays tribute to Mang Roger while also offering help in a more concrete way. Ten percent of the sales will go to him. Now, Mang Roger joke he can finally buy a washing machine.

To buy Mang Roger shirts, visit the Facebook page of "Red Thread."

MANG Roger with Bedan students Alden Ly and Austin Pendez

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My Lee Min Ho addiction

KOREAN heartthrob Lee Min Ho is the endorser for LG Optimus.

By Gref Cabal

AFTER FIVE already embarrassed myself in front of Taipei's sub-section editor Nina Panlilio by turning red, stuttering and almost profusely signing drooling about this assignment, I was headed to Singapore to meet Lee Min Ho. Never mind if it was a 6 a.m. flight on a weekend and I had to travel 1,486 miles just to see him!

I remember the marathon nights of staying glued on the TV just to watch the television's "Boys Over Flowers," the South Korean adaptation of the popular manga series "Hana Yori Dango." My guilty pleasure, obviously, was watching Lee Min Ho, who played Gu Jun Pyo's character, the leader of the notorious F4 group.

I reunited from the airport together with LG friends and Philippine media delegates to get to Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Center in time for LG's Press Conference. I barely had enough time to change and look my best. Never mind, I told myself, I didn't want to be late. Lee Min Ho was waiting.

Lee Min Ho was the ambassador in Asia of LG's new Android-powered smartphone LG Optimus GT540.

I wasn't alone in my fascination. I would later on find out that even MEGASEN host Bianca Gonzalez, who was part of the press junket, was also hooked on the drama series, which came out in 2009. She recalled having sore eyes from long nights of staying up late and crying over star-crossing scenes. She even got her mom hooked on the show.

Soundtrack

The host gleefully announced Lee Min Ho's arrival. We were all dazed; all eyes were fixated on him and his every move. I stood a meter away from him. There were only three things that came between us—the red velvet rope that cordoned off the stage, his bias-like bodyguards, and more hi-tech cameras, like myself, who were armed with their high-powered zoom lenses and gaggle eyes.

Lee Min Ho flashed a magnetic smile and strolled his way to the media crowd. He was everything I imagined him to be...commanding, reserved, and majestically tall. A sweet dream; he wore a classic pale blue shirt that was buttoned up to the collar and the skinniest jeans I've ever seen! He was sporting almost perfect wispy layered hair, similar to your charming anime heroes.

Asian Callen

This Asian heartthrob is the equivalent of Edward Cullen minus the pale chalkish look. Just like our fave vampire, Lee Min Ho has a massive effect on young female fans, driving them completely crazy. They are in the media just to get a quick glimpse of him.

Lee Min Ho has 652,920 fans on Facebook (that's over half a million!)—currently as the same level as Hi-Definition Diva and actress Bettie Liongson Bautista. He has over 55,000 fans on Twitter. One can just imagine the web traffic he receives daily. And it was reported that 70 percent of his fans are heterosexually based – just a small percentage are Koreans.

His popularity has not gone unnoticed. Lee Min Ho was given MTN Broadcast Advertisement Festival's "Most Popular Advertisement Male Model" award in 2009. He received the "Best New Actor Award" for TV at the 46th Baeksang Arts Award. He has also been made the Ambassador for the UNICEF "Love Sor" Campaign for the prevention of Malaria in Africa.

In the Philippines, ABS-CBN has bought the rights to his new series "Personal Taste" but it will be entitled, "Personal Match," and will be aired during the last quarter of this year.

Looking for love

At the press conference, Lee Min Ho frequently broke into a giddy, surprised laugh as he faced the most ear-splitting and silliest questions. He gamely answered every single one of them.

Reportedly, last month on his 23rd birthday, his wish was to have a girlfriend but he's had no luck so far. A lot of his interests during the interview involved the phrase, "I only I had a girlfriend right now. Unfortunately..."

Like when the host asked him are the lucky people who have tried his Chili Crab, a recipe he learned from SG's phone application, he said, "Of course my family and my close friends have tasted my cooking. But I would like to cook for my girlfriend, but so far I don't have a girlfriend right now."

Or when someone asked what LG phone color he liked, he said, "Black is my preferred color. But if I had a girlfriend I would like to give her the pink phone."

Lee Min Ho wishes to meet other ladies. "If there was a phone application I wish to design, it would be to meet other women, like a dating function," he boasted.

He says he wants to meet people "with the same hobbies and interest as mine."

Certified shy guy

Although, he seemed to be the type of guy who can get anyone's number easily, he does not use his stature to his advantage. Like a true gentleman, he actually say "It's terms of dealing with women, I am not so aggressive," he says, embarrassed by the question. "I have never really actually asked for a girl's phone number."

We also learned that Lee Min Ho loves to send SMS and that he once stayed up late on the phone for 13 hours straight, just to talk to his ex-girlfriend.

But if there was someone he missed and wanted to call at the moment of the interview, he said, "It's kinda silly but I would like to see my dog. The person I would like to talk to is my dog, right now. I want to bring him over to Singapore," he says, proclaiming to his Chihuahua, Oreo, whom he immediately let his Twitter world see.

Of course, his affection for his dog gained him "awhs" and "aahhhs" and giggles from the crowd.

Back to reality

It's been a week since my Singapore experience with Lee Min Ho, and I'm back in Manila. I've taken the liberty to follow his official Twitter account, which says that he is "better for Min Ho."

I check his sites most mornings and in the evening before I sleep. Like me, Lee Min Ho likes visiting social sites frequently, too. "On Facebook and Twitter, I

(FROM top) Autograph signing if he had a pen Bianca Gonzalez beside a variety of her idol.

Lee Min Ho says he would want to give the pink LG Optimus phone to her.

say as update in English although my English is not perfect. I am trying to learn. I use these sites to reach my foreign fans. I regularly check the messages and what's posted," he shared.

So my stalker habits have only deepened, like a true Minzy fanatic, wanting to have a little bit more of his world.

LOOK! Scores of young female fans waiting for a chance to meet Lee Min Ho at the Resorts Grand Ballroom

Beauty brand challenges students around the world

TEAM PHILIPPINES took on the global fun-challenge at the Global Beauty Challenge at the Ateneo de Manila's (ATM) Social Foundation, an international marketing competition, held last June 17 in a ballroom in Doha. The game's challenge was to introduce the new and first beauty product range for men for Diesel.

After being briefed about the brand, the target market, brand values and directions to create, the students were supported by IDEAL managers to create their corresponding project, which had the objective of translating Diesel's daring spirit into the most innovative products for the male grooming market.

Aside from IDEAL managers helping the students, they were guided by a communications agency to develop an advertising campaign for their proposed product.

For Francois de Wandeler, International recruitment director of IDEAL Foundation is necessary since he said, "It allows us, through a very concrete approach, to continue closing our partnership for consumer industry and for careers at IDEAL with students. Thanks to this game, we are able to identify the talent that will allow us to continue to excel in the marketing of tomorrow."

A global challenge

This year, almost 7,000 students from 43 countries chose to take on the challenge of creating the new and first beauty product range for men for Diesel.

The three finalist teams presented their project in front of the jury composed of Marc Menningen, president of the luxury products division of L'Oreal; Geoff Skinsley, vice-president and general manager of human resources; Antonella Mora, communications director of Diesel; Fred Ballur and Farid Mokart, respectively, founders and co-presidents of Frederic Comte, Diesel's fragrances adverstising agency.

Founded by IDEAL CEO Jean-Paul Agon, the jury awarded the Portugal team the 2010 grand champion for the best communication campaign for its business Universidade de Lisboa.

Team Argentina won 2nd place for its Universidad Interamericana de Belleza, and the fourth team bagged 3rd place for its University of Monterrey Mexico Center – IDC – Bermuda. The top three teams won a trip to a destination of their choice.

A rewarding experience

During the semi-final round, the 43 participating countries were divided into four pools, the top-eight of which moved on to the three finalist teams presented to the executive jury later that evening.

Team Philippines accomplished an exceptional feat by making second in its pool, not only to Team Portugal, which eventually won the overall top marketing award.

The members of the Philippines team included Carla Bautista, Emil Erasmo and Nicolas Delmas, all from the Ateneo, of the Philippines. The jury commended the team for its concise market analysis, knowledge of Diesel's brand DNA and energetic communication skills.

"Exhilarating, wild and daring. These are words that describe my whole Bandolerista experience," said Nicolas.

"It enabled me to go beyond my creative limits, establish new friendships and fly all the way to Doha! Wait, very few students get to experience that! If only I can join it again, without a doubt, I would definitely rejoin!"

Personal vacation

As part of winning the Brand, Marta Sherwood Finals and representing the country at the global stage, the Philippine team was treated to an all-expense paid trip to Paris. They were also given an additional week of personal vacation. They roamed the streets of Paris, climbed the French way and now wonder-fluss rights such as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre Museum. They were also able to travel to Spain and Italy.

"One dream is, of course, to win the top marketing award globally. And IDEAL is doing all young talented minds to start with the same dream," said Michael Mendoza, current intern manager for IDEAL Philippines.

"Thanks to me is definitely one of the most challenging, unique and fun learning experiences you will experience as a student!"

BIKING at the Chateau Versailles (below, right) inside the Parthenon

TEAM Philippines' Maxx Ortino, Carla Bautista and Emil Erasmo standing below the Eiffel Tower

Rookie roundup

By Sandie B. Gada
Correspondent,
Ateneo de Manila University

UAAP junior court's most promising players

**Gabby Reyes, 16,
De La Salle Santiago Zobel**

Gabriel Reyes, or "Gabby," is the team's tenacious small forward and shooting guard. He has been playing ball, he says, since two. After recording an undefeated season elimination to improve his skill, he decided to try out for the school's basketball team in Grade 4.

"From then on, I could never last a day without holding a basketball," he says.

The 6'2" Grade 10 stylist now has six championship medals from various basketball leagues. He attributes his success to his strengths as a player—shooting, driving and blocking.

Gabby wishes to pursue a professional career in basketball. "It's where I can be myself, show what I have to offer. It's my life," he says.

What are your strengths as a team?

"I think we're a very solid team—like one big family. Our seniors are doing a great job keeping the team together, which helps bring the best out of each player. We train every day and prepare ourselves for the event."

What is the one thing you've learned from your coach?

"Coach Boy Abligner constantly reminds me to play with heart and aggressiveness. He brings out the best in me by making me realize my limits and the areas to improve on."

What is your advice to those who wish to pursue basketball?

"Dedicate yourself to basketball because it takes a lot of heart, patience and discipline to fully appreciate it."

**Ejay Cerro, 16,
University of Santo Tomas**

The Baby Tiger have found their best rookie in high school senior Manuel Joseph Cerro. The 5'10" guard impresses with his easy 15 points, six rebounds and four assists per game.

"I've been playing basketball since I was in elementary," Ejay says. "My mom and dad [pushed] me to (take up) this course (basketball) to what I like to do."

He admits, however, that being a student-athlete can prove taxing at times. "But motivation helps me to [with the help of] her (Mother Nature) lay-up. He hopes his performances this season would eventually lead him to a spot in the seniors' division next year. And like many, Ejay is working towards a career in the PBA.

What are your strengths as a team?

"We're all in it together, win or lose. We just keep to our faith and motivate ourselves."

What is the one thing you've learned from your coach that you wish to live out in the court?

"It's to play with your head."

What is your advice to those who wish to pursue basketball?

"Never, never, never give up. If you fall seven times, stand up eight times."

RUSSEL Escoto, 15, University of the East

JOZHI Gonzaga, 14, UP Integrated School

Number 6 in UE's line-up is junior Manuel Mac Santiago. Though "Boy" possesses the height for the game—he stands 6'1"—it was only two years ago when he tried basketball.

After getting into various other sports, he says in Filipino, "Basketball is really what I've learned to enjoy the most."

Perhaps taking his cue from his favorite basketball player Ray Allen of the Boston Celtics, Boy is often seen on court shooting hoops from the three-point line as a forward.

"I do the best I can whenever the coach lets me play," he says. "Whether I'm able to score or not is not the primary objective, as long as I'm able to show what I have to give for the team."

Boy hopes to continue working on his game by playing aggressively and enhancing extra training hours after practice. In the future, he hopes to make a name for himself as a professional basketball player.

What is the one thing you've learned from your coach that you wish to live out on the court?

"The first coach I ever had was my dad. It was from him that I learned not to give up even if I experience off-days on court. I should never tell the score [as I can improve], I should have been."

What is the best thing about being a basketball player?

"Having a shot at giving your team a championship. It's that when you remember all the hardships you've had to go through as a team."

Freshman Jochua Machmud General is UPIS's newest addition to its basketball juniors roster. The forward-center makes an average of nine points, eight to 12 rebounds and four to six assists per game.

Though a rookie, Josh is no newbie to basketball; he has been playing ball since he was a kid.

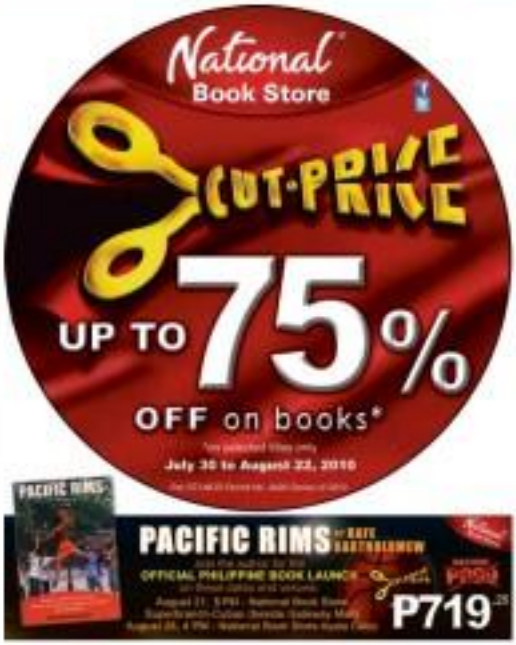
"My dad (had a) basketball court (inside the house), the place everyday," Josh says.

His love for the ball has won for him two MVP trophies, numerous championships, a shot in a national team and, now, in the UP-IS juniors team.

Being the sole center in the team, Josh says he is expected to play good defense on the rim and rely on the older and bigger boys in the tournament. To prepare for his games, he makes sure to practice every day, stay healthy and pray more.

What is your advice to those who wish to pursue basketball?

"Love the game, play everyday and don't give your best."



Nike introduces new breed of champions

By Michelle Veloso

The name of the game is to unleash the biggest potential in the realm of basketball. And young Filipino ballers are more than ready to take their winning form.

Today, players on the collegiate level are full of promise and amazing talent, intensified by the continuous love for the sport that has continued to reach greater heights in the country's sports landscape.

Nike Philippines seeks to fan the flame of passion and reinforces Philippine basketball by launching a campaign that banks on its "New Breed, New Game and New Legacy" direction. Nike features three rising stars from the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) seasons, who represent the best young talents in the country.

Spearheaded by Nino Salva of the Ateneo Blue Eagles, Aldrech Ramos of the FEU Fighting Tamaraws and Borgie Hermida of the San Beda Red Lions, these athletic stalwarts strive to elevate their hoop dreams by channeling the strength of their respective team animals, transforming them into a whole new breed of players.

Partnerships for championships

In its efforts to fuel the long-standing school spirit as shared by many Filipinos during the most intense sports events, Nike Philippines sets to strengthen its ties with top basketball programs in the country through its recent partnership with UAAP Season 72 Men's Basketball defending champions, the Ateneo Blue Eagles, the newest addition to Nike's Philippine collegiate basketball family. The Eagles join the powerhouse pool with Far Eastern University (FEU) Tamaraws and NCAA's San Beda Red Lions.

With the three teams at the helm, Nike brings in its state-of-the-art game jerseys that boast of design and material consistent with Nike's global reputation of basketball product innovation.

The game-day jerseys incorporate a tricolor Dri-n-out mesh fabric for increased ventilation and aesthetic, which helps reduce the fabric weight to help the athletes shine their game further without weighing them down. This technology shall change the way players move around the court, carrying with them a more intense drive and endurance to make the most exciting plays. The standards of the game are brought to new levels of excellence in the process.

Moreover, the Eagles, Tamaraws and Lions will be sporting the season's most anticipated footwear launch—the technologically advanced Nike Zoom Hyperfuse. The NikeZoom Hyperfuse is coordinated with Nike's innovative new technology that delivers a strong, breathable, and lightweight structure that promises to deliver explosive on-court performances. Its seamless embody design helps eliminate potential hotspots and wear points in footwear.

"Nike constantly goes beyond expectations to provide inspiration and innovation for Filipino ballers," said Mae Dichaya, Nike Country Marketing Manager. "Through this campaign, we not only provide athletes with performance-enhancing gear, we also challenge them to unleash their potential, play their own brand of basketball and create their own legacy with every game-changing move."

The Nike Zoom Hyperfuse will be available in Nike stores beginning this month, retailing at P5,995, along with a collection of the schools' apparel. For more information on this innovation, log on to www.nikebasketball.com.ph.

2b LIFESTYLE

De La Salle-CSB student makes it to New York runway

17-YEAR-OLD Chat Almarvez backstage at Tracey Reese fashion show

By Vicky Herves
Contributor

A LOT can happen in a year. It's a realization Pinay ex-parmodel Chat Almarvez is well aware of.

A Google search on this stunning teen will come up with a list of notable achievements. She is the winner of the 2005 Supermodel of the World Philippines competition, which thrust her into the international limelight, held in January this year in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

She describes the experience as a happy but nerve-wracking one because she knew she was representing the country. She did well, in fact, bagging the first runner-up award. After the competition, she signed a contract with Ford models worth $150,000, and immediately began working as a model in New York.

Chat, the person

Chat in person is a bit shy and soft-spoken. She doesn't accept of a giant ego.

At the 17-year-old speaks about her experiences, her eyes light up, showing her eagerness to learn and succeed in the world. She also smiles constantly.

Chat describes her childhood growing up in Laguna as simple. She was an outdoorsy girl who loved to bike, swim and dance. She was once a majorette. Yes, she knows how to twirl a baton!

She was a majorette for five years until she began getting conscious about her height. At 5'9, she stood out in the crowd.

Chat went to Laguna State Polytechnic University for high school. She wanted to be a teacher or a businesswoman. In college, she took up business administration, major in export. At La Salle-College of Saint Benilde for a year.

READ MORE ON P2

AT DIANE Von Furstenberg show

Spread the word on the Nurture Network and win exciting prizes! For every new member you refer to the Nurture Network, you get a chance to win any of the following: digicam, video camera, or an electronic picture frame.

The more members you refer, the more chance you have of winning!

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JAMES BOND

DRINK COMEDY

BY STEVEN HALLIDAY

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

TULDOK

BY HARA COLL

BEH

BY DANIEL SHELTON

BIRD MACHINE

BY HANS ARRIES

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

THE SUN IS TODAY This archetypal energy is in your sign, Virgo, from August 7 to September 7. It's a time for starting new projects and for being more assertive than usual. You have numerous opportunities to meet new people and to make new friends. You are very busy during this time, so it is very important to take care of yourself. This is a very creative period. You may find yourself attracted to the arts, or you may simply express more creativity in your work. Sun Sextile Mercury.

Birthdays of Constance Wu (actress) and Jennifer Aniston (actress). Creative Pisces, actress Wilma Fiorito, hockey star.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Surprise. Emotions at work might disturb you. Unlikely, unexpected events — which could be quite beneficial — will impact your job — negatively or positively, it's entirely up to you!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Love at first sight is possible. Be aware of it when it happens. You may be approached by someone. This is an excellent social day for your children. So cool!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Conversations evolve or get to golfers might take place at them today. Unexpected changes or insights happen. It's a good day to have meetings at or near your home. Approach for assistance first.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Expect to meet new faces and go to new places today. This is an exciting, dynamic day! Avoid it all like the plague! You're full of activity, guard against such desire.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Spontaneous confidences are the order of the day. Be careful, especially regarding technology or personal relationships. Don't be surprised if you're asked to help someone else. Watch what you say or do around others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) This is a consistently supportive day. Your ability to work with others is highlighted. Relations, Partners and close friends need your support. (People are very dependent today.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You feel restless today. Sun don't worry — everybody else feels restless as well. Be careful about jumping to conclusions or hastily making decisions. Don't do anything you'll regret later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This might start out somewhat cool or cold-hearted today. In general, somebody can break through your defenses. Don't worry. Some of yourself (plus a great deal of excitement) today is expected.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Someone with a romantic interest makes, or perhaps more your heart might beat today. People might be surprised at your actions for whatever reason. Quite likely, it's a good thing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Work and unexpected opportunities that arise your way today or need to be performed. Remember that something that seems unimportant will become!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Creative gifts and positive insight come to you today. A fantastic sense about property or wealth. Using the talents you've developed could be evidence in your favor.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Partners and close friends are full of surprises today. Someone might demand more freedom and more space. Or perhaps, you are the person who feels the need. Trust.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs visit www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku

5	7	1
4 5		
3		6
9	2	5
7	9 1 6	3
6	4	2
1		4
1	3	
6	9	8

Difficulty level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CHAT wears a gold sequined tube dress by Filipino designer Rhett Eala and accessorizes with a Chanel bag from Chanel de Saint.

BOLD Lucas pleased peplum dress by John Herrera, black leotard dress and boots, from Aldo.

DeLa Salle-CSB student makes it to New York runway

From page 01

Ms Buenaventura dreaming of becoming a model, and her parents gave her their support.

Fashion-life writer Rina Pyquiroz discovered Chat during the town sweepstakes. She asked Chat if she would like to attend a go-see, at which she was introduced to Joey Espino, executive producer of Runway Productions and Manila School for Models. Espino ended up signing the young up-and-comer.

Her very first runway experience was at the Philippine Fashion Week shows in May 2009.

Sacrifices

Chat shares that by preparing her mind she learned to turn down her fears. She always prays to God for guidance, and keeps her mind close by staying happy and enjoying the process. She always keeps in mind what her parents have taught her: "Do your best. There is no pause, and no replay. Input thigay mo ang lahat."

She says discipline in New York by watching her diet and exercising. There is a lot of commitment involved in living the supermodel life.

BACKSTAGE at the Lacoste show

CHAT (far right) with model friends at the Lella Rose fashion show

And a lot of sacrifices, too. Traveling away from home can get pretty lonely. But eventually Chat got used to it. She says she has made close friends everywhere—in Calvin Klein's model and host model Chiara Boni-petrillo in particular. She has also forged friendships with the other finalists from the Supermodel contest, particularly to-ddelle from Davao.

Supermodel

In such a short time, Chat has already achieved what most models could only dream of. She has walked the runways of New York Fashion Week for Rachel Comey, Cynthia Steffe, Lacoste, Prose from, Elmer You Forever, Issey and Sophie Theallet.

Chat describes the experience as an adventure. She laughs at how her shoe once got caught in her heel but she had to keep on walking as if nothing had happened.

She has also appeared in a fashion editorial in Vilhagarine.

Chat would love to do major work for Vogue, work in Paris and Milan, and get booked for more major campaigns.

WITH OTHER models at the Heaven Khan store

Kito Zialcita—the Green tanker

By Pol Martinez
Student contributor
La Salle Green Hills

KITO ZIALCITA, a 6-footer Lifeguard under the La Salle Green Hills swimming varsity—the La Salle Green Hills swimmers—he takes pride in following in the footsteps of his two older brothers who also swam for the same team, and continuing their legacy.

"I would like to build on my brothers' achievements, and likewise leave my own mark in the history of the UAAP swimming team," he says.

The La Salle Green Hills swim team has won the Juniors NCAA swimming championship for six straight years now, and is vying for its seventh. Kito and his teammates have their work cut out for them.

Describe your personality.

"I'm a very friendly, funny and simple person. I love to go to the mall, hang out with my friends and just chill."

If you had to pick one object that would best identify you, what would it be?

"A jack-in-a-box, because you don't know what to expect from me, but it will always be funny and exciting. I'm full of laughter, energy and excitement."

If you had to name one characteristic that you think would set you apart from everybody else, what would it be?

"I'm very persevering. I have this drive in me to overcome in the face of difficulty, to accomplish something whether it is in academics or in swimming."

Has swimming always been a passion of yours?

"The most memorable moment I had in swimming was when I was in second year high school. It was the 84th Season of the NCAA. I had four events that season, and in three of them Calayan ended up in fourth place. I was feeling really bad because I couldn't win a medal. When my last event came, I gave it everything I had, and I finally I won. What a wait, but it was worth it!"

How did you get started with swimming?

"It's actually a weird story. My two brothers started swimming, and the first thing I noticed was improvement on their physique. I also saw the success they were having in the competitions, and I wanted to be part of that. So I made my decision and quit my passion, basketball, to join the swimming team."

It takes time and perseverance to be a dedicated athlete. What keeps you motivated and driven?

"My parents, friends and teammates are really the people who keep me motivated to swimming. They are the ones who push me to become a better athlete."

What's the one thing you've learned from swimming?

"Discipline. I learned how to discipline myself to balance academics, swimming and my social life."

What is the stupidest thing you've done so far?

"When I was 5 years old, I jumped off a bench and cracked up falling head first on the ground. I ended up chipping four front teeth."

How will you spend your last year in high school?

"I'll try to join more extracurricular activities. I'd like to be part of various projects and be out to enjoy [illegible]. I hope my last year in La Salle will be memorable for me."

KITO ZIALCITA in Topman graphic shirt and jeans.

He and his La Salle Green Hills swim mates have their work cut out for them

ZARA striped shirt

BEN SHERMAN shirt and Zara cropped shorts.

PHOTOGRAPHY ROY BADRIS
STYLING LUIS CARLO
SAN JUAN
GROOMING JARVIN
HARIS YLS MUSIC
SHOT ON LOCATION AT CASA ENRIQUETA
HOTEL MANILA
SPECIAL THANKS TO LESLEY TAN

My fair lady

Black and white extra touch of this is super petite classic and casual. Black and white fun patent soles dress. Wear it by Mary Jacobs and animal cardigan. Priceless!

Nip-tuck

Got entering is a cinch in this sexy number in a neutral color. White suit not striped. Mini top. Plunging v-neck and back. Leopard print tube dress. Also. Plus size grey tube and sweater. Plunge v-neck pattern suits. Charles & Keith

Luck be a lady

'50s glamour takes center stage with full skirts and polished pairings

Perfectly polished

Tone-hitting jackets and flats this season and the perfect add-ons.

Black contrast, Gigi Aurora in 3/4 Sleeve tweed flowy gray mesh in double for maximum fullness. Mary Jacobs red stiletto pumps. TRF in Zara black leather shoulder bag. Worn by Mary Jacobs

Prim and proper

Keep your look up to date by pairing '50s-to-spiced pieces with modern items.

Cream blazer with black lace, and black animal cardigan, mint-hued shorts, light-washed polka-dot denim shorts, Topshop, and gold-yellow printed shoulder bag. Paisley red suede platform heels, Charles & Keith

Photography Pia Pagsisi
Styling assistant Mel Cruz
Makeup Christine Rojas-Lanting of The Makeup Forum
Hairstyle Felicity Sun of Kerlin Strand Salons
Model Nadine of Elan Models International
Shot on location at Cecilia's Restaurant and Lounge, 10 Scout Lindayag St., Tomas Morato, Quezon City. For reservations call 356-0888. Special thanks to Yong Reyes

Skirting the issue

Day looks exhibitively make before the hours of a full skirt.

Black-and-white checkered dress, TRF at Zara in every Little Girl number. Wedges, and leather handbag. Worn by Mary Jacobs. Heart pattern pumps, YSL.

Why you do what you do

Get inspired with this Web-based show

THE WYD TEAM. Mario Limjap, Nicky Davis, Jules de Guzman, Nats Molinyawe, Paolo Abellana

Meet the team behind this season's WYD!

By Rosanna Aranas
Lifestyle Editor

AS CO-FOUNDER of Commune Mfg. (http://www.commune.mnl.com/) and co-owner of clothing brand, Untitled (http://untitled.com/) young entrepreneur Jules de Guzman has a lot up his sleeve. Along with friends Nicky Davis, Mario Limjap and Paolo Abellana, WYD is another project to add to his repertoire.

Why You Do What You Do is a show that aims to inspire you to do what you've always wanted to do. Now on its second season, this Web-based series features artists, entrepreneurs and organizations who have realized their ideas and passions into realities.

Already having featured the likes of Mong Alunan, Quark Henares and Team Manila, WYD follows individuals as they go through their daily grind, tries out and get inspired by—basking in WYD. Why You Do What You Do (http://www.wydtool.com) where new episodes air every 12 noon on Sunday.

What is the inspiration behind the project?

Jules Guzman: I The motivation behind this whole project is for us to do what we have always wanted to do.

Backed by a certain sense of discipline and positive mindset, we can set ourselves to actions such things. It's about enjoying the daily grind and the process entailed to accomplishing something from scratch.

It's about appreciating every day of doing something. One you love and loving something that you do. It's about knowing what we want in life and just going for it.

What was the motivation behind it?

I'm always motivated and inspired by people who have transformed an idea into reality through hard work and passion. I have always wanted to meet such people and feed off energy from them.

This is my attempt to meet such creative and talented individuals that are running a passion into such a profitable business and to learn from them, to let you know that just can do whatever you are your mind and heart into. You just have to start now!

Who are the creative minds behind each episode?

I worked with Mobidoy productions for Season 1 of WYD: Six Season 2, I'm working with Paolo Abellana, Mario Limjap and Nicky Davis.

Who have you featured on WYD?

We have featured around 15 individuals and groups. Some of them are: Team Manila, Chitarina Sun Aun, Sarah Geagles, The Chicks, Bighead of Pouch Manila, The Dabuyard, Inc Cabaiz of Viktor Jesus, Alodia and Ashley Gutierrez, Mong Alunan, Celestine Ito, EST, Quark Henares and Bettina Sienna Alunan.

WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO (www.wydtool.com)

Do you have any interesting/memorable stories about what happened during filming?

Each person or group that we feature has a unique story to tell. The struggle and work they invested in transforming an idea into reality is by no means easy.

Some were about to quit and/or pursue something else. The common thread is the resilience to go forth and pursue a dream, not for anything else, but just to make it happen. Just to be able to live life to the fullest.

What's the best thing you've encountered because of WYD?

Hands for WYD are like a class for me. It's learning from such creative and passionate individuals. I guess that's the best thing!

Anything to look forward to in Season 2?

Uh, you'll just get inspired by the way we get inspired every time we shoot and interview the people that we feature. It will be a motivating journey the whole way through. Enjoy.

Meet the team behind this season's WYD!

Jules de Guzman, 29, entrepreneur

Favorite episode so far: Mong Alunan episode. I like the treatment and how intimate it was.

Most inspiring person you met so far: I love the people I have/am working with for Commune, Untitled and WYD, and everyday people making things happen.

Nicky Davis, 24, cinematographer

Favorite episode so far: Cristina Dy episode because her set is inspiring.

Most inspiring person you met so far: My dad

Mario Limjap, 24, senior filmmaker/cinematographer

Favorite episode so far: Sarah Geagles episode because her work is lovely.

Most inspiring person you met so far: Jules

Paolo Abellana, 31, creative director, owner of Fully Booked

Favorite episode so far: The Clothing episode because other people behind the brand were transforming their passion for graphic design into something profitable.

Most inspiring person you met so far: Daniel Gonzalez, CEO of BODO Gonzalez

WYD is also a production group based in Manila. Their goal is to transform in to reality the production ideas of their clients through branded entertainment. They offer production and post production services for product/brand promotions and live event coverage.

You can contact WYD at: info@wydtool.com

super LIFESTYLE
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Your Super Guide to cheap thrills

Nothing on these pages costs over P50!

KISS FRIGIT will spare no 'Plenty's Crackin' ' Nga Chicken in so good it's become the "it" pandesal for Pinoys being dirtied. It comes in nine variants – adobo and salt and vinegar. P 16.75 per bag, SM Department Store

NOT EVERYONE likes the chocolate and mint combination, but for those who actually do, Grays has something cheap and satisfying: Crispy Choco, which are rice crispies covered in mint chocolate. Best thing is that a small bag costs only P 11, so hoarding the rest time you're in the grocery is quite easy.

By Fran Kastphak, Pam Pastor, Nino Mark Sablan and Tesin Tang
Photos by Jil Lojano, Nino Mark Sablan, Fran Kastphak, Tesin Yang, Andrew Tantoan and Jjen Goño-Pastolero

SUPER'S P100 weekend challenge taught us that P100 doesn't go a very long way these days—especially not if you decide to step out of your house.

But because we're stubborn and we insist on us to believe in the power of the peso, this week, we decided to put it to the test again.

The challenge was to go out and find cheap thrills and great finds. The catch? Nothing should cost more than P50.

We found great things and in this issue of Super, we're sharing them with you.

Hold on to that previous red bill—it can buy a lot of good stuff.

YOUR SUPER GUIDE TO

PEARL SETS. Necklace, bracelet, earrings, P39 per set, SM Department Store

CHOCO BABY. In the perfect world, we'd always have one of these in our bags. Meiji Choco Baby, ₱1.75, SM Department Store

DESIGNS LIGNA
SALE
JULY 16 - AUGUST 31
Megamall, 4/F Building B
Greenbelt 3, 2/F Ayala Center
Pasay Road, 2/F 1014 Almeda Arcade

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Where to Stop Where to Go

Waterfront Cebu's culinary team overall champions in Cebu Goes Culinary 2010

IT WAS sweet victory for the culinary team of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino as the Hotel, Resort and Restaurant Association of Cebu officially declared them overall champion in this year's Cebu Goes Culinary, their fourth since the hotel started joining the event in 2006. Top hotels, resorts and food establishments gathered for the competition, participating in various challenges that put culinary skill and artistry to the test, harvesting numerous awards in different categories. Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino earned 3 Gold with Distinction awards – the most given to any establishment in the history of the competition – for the Table Setting, Chocolate Showpiece and Creative Cuisine categories. Acquiring 9 of the event's highest recognitions, Waterfront hotels and Casinos' area general manager, Marco Pistarini was extremely proud of the food and beverage Division's awesome finishing feat.

After all, he himself was immensely involved in the preparations, with the hotel entering his creation for the Table Setting piece. Paid the theme for the category being "Children's Delight", Waterfront delighted guests with what would have been Suzi Crozier's birthday, a visual masterpiece taking inspiration from Tim Burton's famous "Alice in Wonderland."

In addition to these, Waterfront also received 7 Gold medals for the Steam Team Challenge, Butter Carving, Ice Carving, Swan Ice Cake, Pastel Appetizers, Cold Buffet Platter and Adobo Challenge categories. The hotel's Bread Showpiece and Cooking with Legumes entries earned 2 Silver awards. Winning Bronze medals were: Soko Challenge, 3-Tier Wedding Cake, Chef Wars, Rice Dish and Fruit and Vegetable Carving. The hotel also Challenge, Poultry and Cocktail Mixing.

Executive chef Alessio Soldà and Food and Beverage director Sandi Bhasavibha consider this a statement of the hotel's world-class talent and a demonstration of what to confirm and banquet functions can offer.

Waterfront serves only the best in international and local cuisine at Dencia Lounge, Madelaine, Tu Casa, Mina, Trell, Café Fortuna, Lobby Lounge, Power Dome and Pool Aquarius.

Be treated to world class cuisine and service now. Call (32) 232-8888 for reservations and log on to www.waterfrontcebu.com.ph for more information on romantic and banquet packages.

A VENUE HOTEL SUITES OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF ROCK BAND COMBO AND CAMBRIA

International superstar rock band Cebu and Cambria were recent VIP guests of the A Venue Hotel Suites where they had a one-night only jam-packed concert at the A Venue Hall in the Retail Lifestyle City, Makati City. Officially welcoming them as director for marketing communications and public relations Manuel Belo and general manager Arnel V. Aquino, A Venue Hotel Suites is managed by Genesis Hotels and Resorts Corporation.

A triple treat of the music for music aficionados was held at the Oxford Suites Makati, Durban corner 9 Burgos Street, Makati. Premiering on July 23, Kyla titled 'Galaw, Bossa, Jazzy', the show features a rare mix of artists bringing their brand of music into one exciting collaboration. There's Bibo Reyes, undisputedly the Philippines' Queen of Bossa Nova; Sandra Cancio, the Manila Jazz Diva who provided the 'Bayan' music, and Akala Vinegares, a Japanese jazz artist who never fails to surprise the audience by dishing out OPM favorites in flawless Tagalog. Joel Galang on keyboards, Edgar Aceron on guitar, Jessie Jadlosan Jr. on bass, Jun Reyes on drums, and Jonathan Rodriguez on percussion accompanied these brilliant artists. For the next Friday Night Specials schedules at Oxford Suites, please visit www.oxfordsuitesmakati.com.

InterContinental Manila's new R&R package

TAKE ADVANTAGE of InterContinental Manila's Relax and Refresh room package for the period of Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. Stay for a minimum of two paying nights or book two rooms overnight on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or declared bank holidays at the hotel and enjoy a complimentary overnight stay at holiday Inn Clark any day of the week. The special package rate of P6,200++ per night is a deluxe room inclusive of buffet breakfast for two persons. The offer is valid for hotel weekends only and is subject to room availability. Rates in the heart of Makati City close to shopping, dining and entertainment establishments with the family or your friends then go for a refreshing countryside break to Clark, Pampanga to try one. For details and reservations, please call 720-7555.

Vigan Gordian Hotel offers 30% off on all rooms

VIGAN IS known for its' boutique hotels, where grand residential houses has been transformed into one. Gordian Hotel is a boutique hotel with 21 highly cozy air-conditioned rooms, 21 individualized TV, FREE, private toilet and bath with cold and hot water and high speed wifi. It is located in the heart of the Vigan Heritage site, making it an ideal location for holiday and business trips alike. Gordian Hotel also serves as an ideal venue for meetings, product launching, seminars, weddings, conference and social functions. Kamares Hall can accommodate up to 200 persons in theater type arrangement and as much as 120 persons in banquet style setting. It also has outdoor venues and courtyard where you can dine amidst the ruins of Vigan. Gordian Hotel is currently offering 30% discount on its guests. And of a 20 percent discount on all tourist Promo valid to Sept. 30. For inquiries, please call (077) 722-2626 and 722-1985, Manila line telefax (02) 536-5852, 3808 889 6833, (002-8196401, (002-8196825, E-mail reservations@vigangordianhotel.com or visit www.vigangordianhotel.com

CUSTOMER IS KING AT THE LINDEN SUITES

Your majesty, the choice is yours! Be the king of comfort when you book an executive room for P5,000 net at The Linden Suites. This rate is inclusive of any one of the following choices: (1) daily buffet breakfast, (2) unlimited broadband access, (3) 60-minute relaxing massage, (4) upgrade to a one bedroom suite, (5) free pieces laundry or dry cleaning, or (7) eight-hour use of an office cubi.

Microtel

ZestAir flies to Thunderbird Resorts Poro Point, La Union

AS PART of Thunderbird Resorts continued efforts to improve services and provide guests with more travel options, the first-ever arrival of the North have recently partnered with Zest Airways Inc (ZestAir).

Starting Aug. 8, getting to Thunderbird Resorts Poro Point will no longer be much of a chore – it's a 55-minute flight away from Manila via ZestAir which will fly three times a week to San Fernando International Airport in La Union.

For its launch, ZestAir offers introductory one-way fare to San Fernando, La Union for only P1,199 all in. Available this August 2010 with travel period from August 8 to Sept. 30.

Opening this gateway is also a means to boost tourism in the province and help new economic investments in various destinations.

The Mediterranean-inspired property of Thunderbird Resorts is in the peninsula of Poro Point in San Fernando, La Union. Already becoming a favorite among couples, the hotel reminiscent of the Santorini island in Greece is touted as a scene-stealer, next only to the sandy beaches of the South China Sea.

It comes with a full set of world-class services and amenities: Vegas Grill, Cabana Bar, Olives Restaurant, Santorini Lounge and Bar, The Pool Bar, The Cliffs Grill and Beach Club, Fronto Casino, and The Oracle Boutiques.

The launch is hosted and organized by Thunderbird Resorts in cooperation with ZestAir, Poro Point Management Corporation (PMCC), San Fernando Airport, La Union and Ilocos Convention and Development Authority (ICCDA).

Dusit Thani Manila's Groovy Grandparents Facebook Photo Contest

THIS SEPT. 12, another heartwarming event takes place at Dusit Thani Manila to celebrate Grandparent's Day with fun and exciting Groovy Grandparents Facebook Photo Contest.

"As we celebrate Grandparent's Day this year, Dusit Thani Manila invites everyone to join the Groovy Grandparents Facebook Photo Contest. We are looking for the five grooviest photographs of grandparents. If you have wacky, funny and adorable pictures of your grandparents, send them to us, and we'll share them with the Facebook community!" said Prateek Kannan, general manager of Dusit Thani Manila.

Once the contestants have found the perfect photo that captures their grandparent's groove in action, e-mail them to dtmcfb@dusit.com by Aug. 13. Limit like one to ten each. All entries are complete with the following information: a short caption, complete name and age of the sender and the grandparent's contact details.

All entries will be published in Dusit Thani Manila's Facebook page from Aug. 15 to 31. Add Dusit Thani Manila on facebook for full access to the contest album. Family and friends can vote for the grooviest picture by clicking on the "like" button. At the end of the voting period, the top five most "liked" photos will be announced as the winners of the contest. All winners are entitled to a groovy, instant voucher for an overnight accommodation at the all new Dusit Thani Manila, the perfect gift indeed for every dear grand pa and grand ma on Grand parent's Day!

For DTI-NCR Permit No. AJ-0641 Series of 2010. For inquiries on the Groovy Grandparents Facebook Photo Contest, contact 867-3333 ext. 3306.

Romancing August at Sofitel

BRIDE TO BE the groom and find your muse at Sofitel Philippine Plaza from Aug. 1-31. Soul-stirring sunsets at 30/Cliff, champagne and caviar at Lobby Lounge, and a delicious five-course dinner at Spices Restaurant, all for the price of P3,888.++ inclusive of a delectable breakfast rendezvous at Spices for two, and choose from an extra treat or a fabulous pool view, either grand white supplies bed. Find yourself once again at Sofitel's beauty and wellness haven. Lollipop signature French treatments have the warmth of the Filipino touch, the Marrakech Sweetness and Mint Secret massages being particular favorites. A couple's retreat is highly recommended, as lovers bask in the glow of the famous Manila Bay sunset on the spa deck after a well-deserved pampering. Be the second lover of Lollipop a "Tie Zoe Institute, a medical spa, famous for saturated non-invasive facial contouring and body sculpting, while also providing a wide spectrum of services. Philippine Sofitel is the final stop, where unfolding French Philippine Hospitality leads to highly unconventional of stylists to deliver the latest and most stylish hair cuts, hair colors and make up. Entertainment at Sofitel is world class, with live jazz performances nightly at Lobby featuring top Filipino artists such as drum-masters Mel Dore and jazz and soul vocalist Kat Agpalsa. The elegant deli and lounge, Seven, features international DJs such as DJ Mero of Croatia, DJ Kristian Hernandez of Australia and Ms. Barbara of Germany, playing the best of funk, soul, disco, boogie, Latin and house for a seriously good time. Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10:00 PM offers spectacular views of the majestic bay, best enjoyed with a beautiful bottle of red and exotic chill-out music. Everything is light, lovely and inspiring at Sofitel this August. For inquiries and reservations, please call (632) 551-5555 extn. 1301 to 1304, or (632)832-6900 or e-mail at room.reservations@sofitelmanila.com.

Grand Regal Hotel's room promo

GRAND REGAL Hotel Davao is celebrating its 12th anniversary this August and comes up with a nifty way which caters the guests a lot of money, through a series of discounts and promotions offered to anyone looking for a luxurious getaway. Guests need only to walk-in to avail of the "Sickle-Dove Regaining Agosto" package, which includes the amazing double 12 percent discount on all rooms. The double up 12 percent discount package is valid starting Aug. 1 until the 31st, amazingly a month- long anniversary offering an easy to thank the guests for supporting brand-regal-hotel for the past 12 years. All rooms are open for the taking, of course, depending on your pleasure. Grand Regal unveils a renewed commitment this anniversary month, and shares an offering that all guests will surely remember, the gift of experience. For inquiries, please call (082)300-8888 and 235-0888.

Top chef opens restaurant in Ortigas Center

ENTER, THE newest French-Mediterranean dining hotbox the metropolis, recently opened its doors to an exciting and utterly excited crowd that eagerly awaited its dazzling gastronomic delights. Named after its executive chef, Andreas Kaiser, this hub of French-Mediterranean cuisine would surely appeal to the free-living crowd and with chef Andreas at the helm of Kaiser's kitchen, expect him to dazzle people once again with his own brand of culinary wizardry. The upscale chef and part owner of popular gastronomic haven Le Souffle also assures that Kaiser will serve not just excellent food but also impeccable service that his loyal fans will be familiar with in the hospitality industry. Family, friends and fans of chef Kaiser gathered recently at Kaiser's grand opening, a mix of yuppies and hordes of enjoyed the cocktail party in celebration of this new dining hub at the heart of Ortigas. Kaiser is located at the second floor of Mytown Corporate Plaza, Ortigas Ave. (formerly Emerald Ave.), Ortigas Center, Pasig City. You can reach the restaurant through the Pizza Street entrance while guests parking inside the building can enter the restaurant via a private elevator that leads directly to the second floor where Kaiser is located. Kaiser is open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. For reservations and inquiries, call 638-4878.

WOFEX OPENING

Wofex 2010 opened last Aug. 4, with Pasay City Mayor Tony Calixto as the guest of honor together with officials in the food and beverage industries. Thousand of trade buyers and visitors have flocked the World Trade Center and the SMX Convention Center, both venues in this year's Wofex. This year's biggest food and beverage show culminates on Aug. 7 with seminars with topics such as "Take a Look at European Bread," the Asian Beach Glee, Tea Variations, Mocktails and Cocktails, and wine Food Pairing 101. The last day will also announce the winners of the 11th Philippine Culinary Cup, which is considered to be the country's most prestigious culinary competition. For updates on the seminars and all other activities, log on to www.wofex.com or call Premier Events Plus Group Inc at the World Trade Center 551-5134 or call phones 09 16 2934527 , 0916 7170085, and 0922-8526653.

WHO DOESN'T love Flat Tops? P34.75

CRAVING for chocolate? ChocoMocho has a selection of addicting wafer roll cereal crisps that aren't just affordable (you can find them in all grocery—and variety—stores; they're sold for P5.50 in groceries but are priced P1 at 7 Eleven), they're very tasty, too. They come in chocolate, white chocolate and peanut butter, but the dark chocolate flavor is the best. It tastes expensive!

SUGAR HIGH. Nerds, P48, Jolly Belly, P39.75, Laffy Taffy, P55, Ring Pops, P49.75, Pixy Stix, P39.75, Super Bears, P50 for 80 grams, all from Candy Corner Shoppe in Mall

SOMETHING FISHY About our warning—you might get addicted. SeaKist Crispy Dilis, P34.75, SeaKist Crispy Pusit & Dilis, P36.75 and SeaKist Spicy Pusit, P44.75, SM Department Stores

Your Super Guide to cheap thrills

Continued on page

FOR COUNTLESS people, Burger Machine continues to be the ultimate place for comfort food. We find the same way—especially about Burger Machine's Sam-Rival. It's right, it's tasty and it reminds us of childhood days and grandpas who would drive to Burger Machine in the middle of the night to pick up this sweet treat.

GOYA gets complicated sweet makeover. The result? Yummy chocolates for unbelievably low prices. Goya White Almonds, P26.75, Goya Dark on White Almonds, P26.75, Goya Dish Mint, P26.75, SM Department Store

SIX DEGREES OF BACON. As if Marty's wasn't enough, Chibi Station released Baconitos, a potato snack that looks and tastes just like bacon. It's yummy, it's crunchy, it's cheap and it will take all of your willpower to resist the urge to put it in a sandwich. We failed.

WHAT'S MORE FILLING—and possibly yummier—than shawarma? Shawarma rice! Leylam Shawarma, found right outside SM Southmall's Supermarket, offers lamb, and rice shawarma rice to die best. For only P49 a cup, you can enjoy rice mixed with veggies and shawarma bits, topped with three sauces: tomato brown sauce, garlic sauce, and red hot sauce.

ENGKYMEN Factory Cassiopa, P28/serving, is a sweet soft meringue sandwich sandwiched sugar and drizzled with custard sauce. This bakery-mini-restaurant is at Tanauan Market across Shoppers Plaza Tanza, Malaya.

STANDS SELLING mini bibingka are a staple in malls and Bibingkahan, which sells a piece for P20, seems to have the best ones—more eggy and less bready than others.

LONDON SQUARE just keeps on churning out all those tasty sweet treats. Its latest is called Pinoy Pops!, which is like an upgraded version of granola bar—remember? The wafer core is now syrup. It's spotted like that on the wrapper! It's sticky and sweet (a little too sweet, actually), while the champorado one is a little bitter but turns out to be the better-tasting variant. A pack of ten costs P46.50 in supermarkets.

TAPA. King Champerado, P45, is nearly as good as the home-cooked version. For takeout or delivery, the mapa-sweet milk can be packed separately.

FOR DIM SUM with a twist, on the Japanese Siomai from Master Siomai (available in most SM foodcourts), Teppanyaki's piece of crabmeat and mayo-topped siomai is worth the order—four pieces, only P59. Perfect for Master Siomai-nghts!

BERRY GOOD. Berry McFlurry, McDonald's, P39

MALAWPA just oh so!, P12 piece, is a surprise find in Pampoli, Tarlac. The bakery, whose version of the local bread is half the size of the super-baked commercial variety but soft, chewy and tastes good even if not warmed, has branches in other provinces.

WE LOVE Lucky Me!'s Baked Mac and Mac and Cheese. We're practically addicted to them. And at P14.50 each, who can blame us?

PENCIL PRIDE, Miniatures Sculpture, P45.75, SM Department Store

STICKY NOTE Hand Pick, P49.75, SM Department Store

BALLOONS, P49.75 per pack, SM Department Store

Your Super Guide to cheap thrills

PENCIL BOX assortments, from P124.75 to P49.75, Shangri-La Mall

BALL, P150 for 1pc, SM Department Store

PUZZLE BOOKS, P50 each, National Bookstore Shangri-La Mall

ERASER brings us back to grade school days when a new pencil brought sheer joy. Books provide, three for P15, National Book Store

PARTY poppers, P1.75, and pick-up sticks, P34.75, SM Department Store

SNACKS, P50, Kids Station, Shangri-La

STICK 'EM UP, P50, Kids Station, Shangri-La

TATTOOS, P50, Kids Station, Shangri-La

BAND AID, Mediplast Checker Series, P11.50, SM Department Store

ANIMAL PADS, P29.75 each, and animal square stickers, P49.75, SM Department Store

Setting it Straight:
Disputing Misconceptions about HPV

According to US data, HPV or the human papillomavirus is the most common sexually transmitted infection. In most cases, the body's immune system clears HPV naturally. However, with more than half of sexually active people estimated to contract the highly contagious virus in their lifetime, the risk of infection represents a health threat, especially as some types of HPV may lead to serious diseases like cancer.

To effectively mitigate the potential risks associated with HPV, it is important to know what we are up against. Information about HPV often either exaggerates or understates the actual threat so it is important to debunk some popular myths about the virus.

MYTH: HPV only affects women.

FACT: HPV affects both men and women. Although it is often mentioned as the cause of cervical cancer, certain low-risk types of HPV can lead to genital warts in both genders. The WHO also links high-risk types HPV to other diseases, such as cancers of the vulva, vagina, penis and anus and a subset of head and neck cancers.

MYTH: Only sexually promiscuous people get HPV.

FACT: Total abstinence from genital contact is the most effective HPV prevention method. However, one doesn't need to have simultaneous and multiple partners to get infected. Even if someone is in a monogamous relationship, one can still be at risk of infection if his/her sexual partner has had past sexual relationships. One can also catch HPV without intercourse as the virus can be transmitted through hand-to-genital contact and mere genital contact even without penetration. HPV, in rare cases, may also be transmitted from mother to child during childbirth.

MYTH: HPV infections manifest visible signs.

FACT: Although genital warts are recognized signs of infection, most HPV infections do not present signs or symptoms, and thus could be passed on unknowingly. Notably, most men who get HPV do not develop any symptoms or health problems and thus would likely not realize that they're carrying the virus.

MYTH: Condoms offer protection from HPV infection.

FACT: The use of condoms (all the time and correctly) can reduce the risk of HPV infection and passing it on to your partner, but does not provide complete protection because HPV can infect areas that are not covered by a condom.

MYTH: HPV vaccines are all the same.

FACT: There are two kinds of HPV vaccines available in the market today—the bivalent and quadrivalent HPV vaccine. Both vaccines protect against HPV 16 and 18, which cause approximately 70% of all cases of cervical cancer. Notably, only the quadrivalent HPV vaccine offers protection against HPV types 6 and 11, which are the causes of around 90% of genital warts in both men and women.

These are just some of the myths about HPV. Clarifying these myths marks a crucial step if we are to effectively help fight the spread of HPV. Get the facts straight by visiting www.helpfightHpv.com. To know more about HPV vaccines, consult your doctor.

Your Super Guide to cheap thrills

STOP GRUNGE! with all-natural cleansers from Human, available at all Watsons stores. Not only is a pack of 100 cheaper than other brands (only P27), they also come in fun variants, from rose or green tea-scented ones to those that are pearlized or printed.

NAIL ART: Wish 10 Nail Stickers, P49 each; Wish Nail Stickers, P15 each, SM Department Store

LIP SERVICE: Watsons Moisturizing Lip Balm Yummy Berry, P50, SM Department Store

THESE Fanatiques are just like the real thing and at P49.75 each only

TANK TOP, P49, in multiple colors, found at a pringles in Makati

REMEMBER WHEN you needed one of these insanely cute pens to last out in school? You can relive those days. Angel's Scratch, Angel's Smile, Angel's Love, P49.75 each, SM Department Store

PAMPER YOURSELF with the pearl-essence mask from Purederm Skin Recovery (P49.75 at all Watsons stores), its 100-percent-natural pulp sheet has collagen and Vitamin E for skin elasticity and brightening, plus pearl powder which helps tone and rejuvenate complexion, clear blemishes, minimize pores and reduce skin redness.

LACE ponytails, P49.75, SM Department Store

FEAR, earrings, P49.75, SM Department Store

GREEN AND BEAUTY. Bobbie Glass Jade, P33; Carina Sea Green and Green Minded, P27.75; La Belle Evergreen, P34, SM Department Store

KEEP IT CLEAR, Caroline Twenty Nine Sunglass, P39 each, SM Department Store

WRISTONE Elastic Hair Band, 20 Piece, P49, SM Department Store

HAIR accessories, P19.75 per set, SM Department Store

ZIP UP. These handy zipper lanyards open up to let either your phone to your wrist or to cling around your neck. P19.75 pair, Landmark

FLIP-FLOPS, P40, SM Department Store

SUPER SURVEY

What's your favorite cheap thrill?

Plastic balloon, fishballs, 'isaw,' Choc-Nut—everybody has a cheap thrill

By Pam Pastor

IT DOESN'T matter if you're a successful actress, a famous musician, a powerful businesswoman, a household name. When it comes to cheap thrills, everyone is equal.

That said, Super asks some of our favorite people about the little things that make them happy.

"Those coin-operated massage chairs at the mall at P10 a pop! Sulit!" —**Chris Martinez**, songwriter/director/producer

"Pasabog balloons with darts—way back! Fiesta Carnival days." —**Peg Medina**, actor

"Tetrapower! Or UNB Light." —**Jesse Beers**, photographer

"Carrots or Chic nail polish from SM." —**Amina Bonnar-Alonso**, designer/SONI founder

"Ice balls (brain-siplat)" —**Jed Elevera**, professional dancer

"Large School Boy Twinkies for P25 only!" —**Nicolas Benedico**, photographer/entrepreneur

"Without pain de sal from Pan de Amerikana on Pasay Road in Makati. It's P5 for such joy!" —**Lee Ledesma**, entrepreneur/The ONE School founder

"Ay ate, kwiting. Sa wonder tex or happy child-hood memories. Feeling at isang hiblang gikhiral to-lege pero se-nipe de to. Wig murmasan ako ng kwiting. I feel like a child again. Wiking problema at mensor ang. I love hubog, libaklo and hip-notized." —**John Lapus**, actor

"Coroson!" —**Ruby Kier**, entrepreneur/ weight lifter

"Once watching 'Magkaribal' movie? Haha! It's not quite true. Later tawa to pay for the month-ly electricity bill and mall's wap-ter! Psst. Eh, and the big-screen TV inside now." —**Lira Ibada**, lifestyle journalist

"Mountain Biking at Camp Aguinaldo bike trail. Entrance fee—P40." —**Raimond Manalapaz**, musician

"Suppose juice from Salvado Wa-ter!" —**Jose Enrique Lampas**, regional manager, National Bookstore

Plastic balloons. —**Jana Prieto-Valdes**, columnist/ interior designer

"Top three: squid balls doing Buendia after a meeting—P5 each. Top two: Dr-no face (find a face vending machine at 1-1/5—P45 for a medium cup. Top one: Heals...A box of crayons and a col-oring for my 3-year-old son and I'll pa-tiently wait for his masterpiece to be done. Priceless!" —**Abey Mazon**, [illegible]

"Ohh Curie for Josh and Jill takan me back to being 7 years old! Whoo!" —**Gi-Na Aquino**, PR/fashion

"Ladies night at Society lounge on Wednesday nights! Free cock-tail of the night is lychee!" —**Anna Mendoza**

"We end-to-end ride at the MRT." —**Stephen Ku**, club owner and event specialist

"What else but free?! Having spaghetti from any fast food chain will surely put a smile on my face." —**Jane Bingco Cheng**, marketing manager/blogger/stylist

"Plain sundae cone at McDonald's! P13!" —**Raya Martin**, filmmaker

Mandalay Sweets, they're free." —**Clara Yambing**, gynecologist

"Choc-Nut." —**Ace Saqueña**, [illegible]

"Trivia (Pasig dish, love IT!A!)" —**Denise Lee**, entrepreneur/ model

"Comedy!" —**Ayden Mario**, editor/model

"Bread! Hot pan de sal from Julia's bakeshop in Pan de Manila! Three pieces for a small one, six for a big one. I'm a breakfast buffet girl. You can't go wrong. I make a bar of the honey-cooking bread from Laguna called Pan de Banale. Super good!" —**Kate Valdez**, fashion designer/musician

Bananas! It's thrilling, exciting and insane at skill. It's outer also. Or safe-ling spiders." —**Jericho Rosales**, actor

"Choc-Nut." —**Cleona Lei Pio**, musician

"The P10 tuna rice Pasta St., Laguna Village, in front of Trilogy Boutique and Canteen. Always hot and ready to eat at 2 p.m. every day. It is crunchy and delicious! With a smaller bowl of deep, dark, snappy-caramel and a sweet saba banana (single size). The occasional overripe mushy banana just is ace-wit-ne- 'Tiny is JOY'." —**Fernando Aresenio**, chef/entrepreneur

Eight underprivileged youths will represent RP in annual international tournament

From troubled youth to focused footballers, thanks to the Homeless World Cup

By Jed-Angelo Q. Segovia

THE SUN BEAT down as dust and dirt kicked up in clouds. The heat stung, but the afternoon life flowed on in Paraiso ng Batang Maynila across Manila Zoo.

This park, built as a children's attraction, now plays host to the indigent. Ragged, homeless people sheltered under trees, unmindful of flies burning about their bodies by cream vendors stood vigilant, hoping for attention from spilling mac vendors. Children from a nearby slum community were gazed under a shell-like roof, whose paint peels but hasn't lost any quality of color.

Under a pixilated canvas roof emblazoned with a barangay official's name, I found the Philippine Homeless World Cup (PHWC) team. They are shooting a music video, meant to raise funds for the cause. The crews are all volunteers, and the video's song, "Bayanihan," was written and composed by the team's head coach.

Eight young men of 19-25, the players bear features of those who've lived under the most harrowed poverty: deficiency and unfinished education.

"Four players from Silay City, Negros, were part of gang wars in high school. One guy from Bacolod City was involved with [the street drug] 'shabu'," said head coach Rudy del Rosario. The others were also products of hard drug life and gang violence.

The HWC is an annual international football tournament where teams of homeless or marginalized people represent their countries in Homeless International Opportunities for Change (Hinac), a non-government organization for homeless interests, coordinated with HWC's global office to establish the Philippine team. After spending the years in Urban project inspiring a street magazine where 50 percent of the cover price goes to its homeless territory.

This September, the team is flying to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to compete. This is the country's third year to participate, following top spots in Milan, Italy (2008), and Melbourne, Australia (2009). It is also Del Rosario's first time to coach a HWC team.

Scholarships, jobs

With a face like sweet earth, worn like dreadlocks and a husky gruster, Del Rosario resembles "Iron Man 2"'s Mickey Rourke.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them. Last year, our team placed 29 out of 56. My objective is to improve on that," he said, speaking of his wards.

From April to May 2011, Rosario and Urban scouted the country for players. The team's members now include Julius Rodela and Hazmiel Pasion, brothers Lester and Mark Marcella, Leopoldo Aragon, Michael Dimaliw, Ronnel Lagrosdo and Ervin Mark Arenal. They come from locales such as Laguna, Quezon and Bacolod. Only one player hails from Manila: Lagarde, whose district Lower Ita was the very site where the video was being shot.

Every year, each team drafts new players from the marginalized sectors. The Philippines' first two teams were drafted from institutions like Manila Boys' Town. Selecting players from unprivileged communities this year enabled Urban to continue supporting the players' lives past the tournaments.

"I doesn't stop at Rio," said Del Rosario. "After the tournament, we'll get them scholarships and jobs." Some jobs is good news for Mark Marcelle, who, for one, was a customer-care worker before the drafting.

Gathering funds and sponsors has been difficult, but the team has benefited from extensive media coverage, notably on reality show "Pinoy Big Brother." They were invited to the show's Final night and were handed a check worth P500,000.

They hope to circulate their music video on Mtv, for further exposure. Milanio and Cebu Pacific are two more sponsors. The latter gave free tickets to Bacolod so the team could visit players' families there.

Transformation

Former Philippine HWC players have found themselves with good haircuts. A Melbourne player is now Del Rosario's assistant coach; a Milan player now coaches at Manila Boys' Town. A former player has a scholarship from Polytechnic University of the Philippines, and the Baron brothers have been offered a scholarship to Laguna.

Aragon, once mired in substance abuse, quit to harmonize new athlete Mr. Actual and Quezon, the Silay-born players, triumphantly returned as role models to the high school team they were once notorious. Their attitudes have all improved.

"Dahilan dun kami. Dapat nasisiraan ng asawa kasi hindi nawawala ang inuman," said Arenal. "Magbago kaya naman, at mag-ing disiplinado kami."

After one and a half months of training, said Del Rosario, "They've totally transformed. We got a beautiful lesser from Aragon's parents thanking us for this opportunity."

The players can hardly wait for the tournament. "Kasisi [running

PLAY BALL: The Philippine 2010 Homeless World Cup team practices at Paraiso ng Batang Maynila.

MAN WITH THE PLAN. Coach Del Rosario

(BACK ROW) Michael Dimaliw, Hazmiel Pasion, head coach Rudy del Rosario, Rooven Laguardia, assistant coach Ronnel Pandes; (middle row) Lester Marcella, Leopoldo Aragon, Mickyle Pasion; (front) Mark Marcella, Ervin Mark Arenal

"NAGBAGO! Iba'y sunod, at naging disiplinadokami."

DEL ROSARIO wrote and composed the team theme song

Email the author at jedjsegovia@yahoo.com.

For more details and information, visit the 2010 Philippines Homeless World Cup team!

'Vampires Suck' in theaters soon

JAKE Bella with vampire lovers

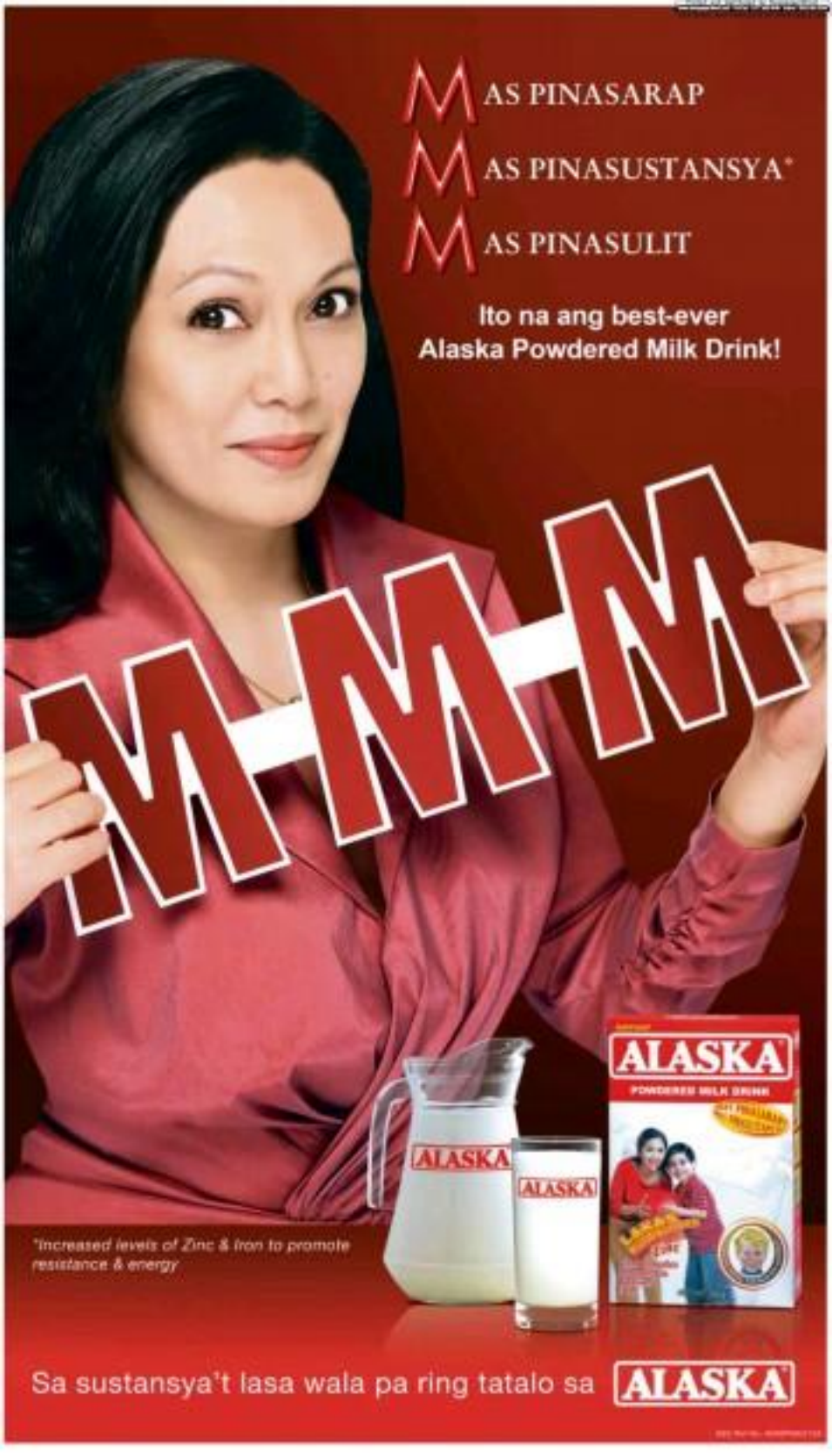
"VAMPIRES SUCK" is a parody of the blockbuster "Twilight" series. From the outrageous minds of Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer ("Date Movie," "Epic Movie," "Meet the Spartans").

"Vampires Suck" pools together talented comics such as Ken Jeong ("Transporter"), Matt Lanter, Jenn Proske and Chris Riggi.

The movie is about Becca (Proske), who finds herself in the middle of a vampire-human wolf love triangle. She has to wrestle with once angst and romance as she decides between Edward Sullen (Lanter), the vampire, and Jacob (Riggi) the werewolf. Jacob, however, plays as team also get around her controlling father who wants her to embarrass her at all times.

"Vampires Suck" spoofs many famous moments in Twilight" movies, including Edward's first time with Bella (Proske) in the forest, Jacob's shirtless scene, and Edward's decision to "Forever Bites.

EPOOF Bella with quad Jacob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Editor Hector U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rita P. Avila

SATURDAY Special

IN THIS ISSUE

Far hydrants, work /ŵk and other boob-tube booboos /D4

Tension, paranoia merge in Polanski's latest thriller

By Hector Torre

"THE GHOST WRITER" is a movie for adults in the true sense of the word—a thriller that uses no novel fix to your face thrills. This is a Roman Polanski movie, after all, and no one else layers tension and paranoia quite so skillfully as he does.

Based on Richard Harris' novel, "The Ghost," the film stars Ewan McGregor as the titular character who has just been hired to jazz up the stultifyingly memoir of former British Prime Minister, Adam Lang (Pierce Brosnan). The first line of greater disgruntle to come starts in the production's first scenes, where we see why McGregor's character had to be hired in the first place.

Replacement

It turns out that he's a replacement for the original ghost writer who has just jumped off a New England ferry and gets washed up on a beach in Martha's Vineyard.

The possibility that he might have been pushed off, instead—which we see in the film's cold-open initially—only adds to the atmosphere of foreboding that grows stronger as the movie progresses.

The ghost writer, who is never named, is uneasy about the job from the beginning. He knows nothing about politics, there's a one-month deadline, and the press is abuzz with allegations that Lang collaborated with the US government and the CIA in the torture of detainees.

He can't say no to the huge amount of cash being offered, however, and flies off to the States to join Lang and his retinue, which includes Lang's wife, (ruth is superb Olivia Williams) and his assistant, Amelia Bly (Kim Cattrall). Once he gets there, his uneasiness only heightens as things get increasingly more disquieting.

McGregor does a good job playing his Everyman character, who's as unequipped as any ordinary person would be to deal with the dangers and complexities of transnational politics and espionage. Brosnan is spot-on, as well as the charming, slightly oily Lang, whose smooth persona masks a baffler personality.

Marked by a vague sense of menace that stays and subsides but never totally goes away, the film is the kind of finely crafted thriller that is becoming increasingly rare in Hollywood.

Polanski is subtle and respectful of his audience's intelligence. Here, he builds suspense, not by speeding up the action or by

TENSION /F6

Monique Wilson marks milestone with powerful play

By Rita P. Avila

WILSON. Returns to the stage in "My Name is Rachel Corrie."

THIRTY YEARS ago, Monique Wilson was current just playing the orphan, Molly, in "Annie" and Maria von Trapp in "Sound of Music." Who knew that Johnny and Jerry Wilson's impressively precocious daughter would grow up to be the respected singer-actress, unabashed feminist and well-loved drama teacher she is today?

When we started acting in and directing Sow Voice productions in the late '80s, it wasn't just Monique's impeccable taste as a theater artist and dedication in her craft that impressed us—we were also drawn to her uncompromising stance in her company.

Collaborative

She uses the stage as a medium not just to entertain viewers, but also to inspire them—she is collaborative, but doesn't subject words. She makes her (and our) theater vocation more than just an avenue for fun and fluffy entertainment.

—Which is why we're particularly excited about having Monique—who's celebrating her 30th anniversary in theater this year—star in the lyrical staging of the award-winning, one-woman play, "My Name is Rachel Corrie," which goes onstage at Music Museum on Sept. 3 and 4 (+63 896-5407).

The production tells the true-to-life story of a peace activist who leaves her comfortable life in the US to stand between an Israeli bulldozer and a Palestinian family's home that's about to be demolished. In that fateful day, Rachel was crushed to death while undertaking nonviolent, direct action. But, her advocacy didn't end in vain.

Shortly after her passing, several of Rachel's e-mails from Gaza were published in British newspapers, prompting actor-director Alan Rickman ("Harry Potter," "Nine to Wonderland"), who was so moved by them, to approach the Royal Court Theatre about finding a way to tell Rachel's inspiring story.

A year later, Corrie's family sent Rickman and the theater group more than 100 pages of Rachel's letters, e-mails and journal entries—some dating back to her childhood. Rickman then enlisted the material with journalist, Katharine Viner, and turned the article's story into a play—as told of his own words.

Awards

In 2005, "My Name is Rachel Corrie," starring Megan Dodds under Rickman's direction, became the fastest-selling play in Royal Court's history. The following year, it transferred to the West End and won accolades for Best Solo Performance, Direction and New Play of the Theatregoers' Choice Awards.

Monique gushes about her

MONIQUE /F6

What was the first Pinoy movie submitted to the Oscars?

By Jocelyn Valle

Add U.S. oral bing under the entertainment section (jvalle2000@gmail.com), and we'll get your answers. This week's Q&A:

Show Biz Q&A

What was the first Filipino movie submitted to the Oscars for consideration in the Best Foreign Language category?—Lady Seraphim, Pangasinan

A year after it was acclaimed at the 1953 Venice International Film Festival, Manuel Conde's "Genghis Khan" vied for the special or honorary award for foreign-language films that the Oscars were handing out irregularly between 1947 and 1955. When the category was formally introduced in 1956, Lamberto V. Avellana's "Anak Dalita" was behind, but lost to Federico Fellini's "La Strada."

Only Dave Blaz—"The Manny Pacquiao Story," "Dalawang Bagong Mukha," "Ang Pagbabalik ng Panday"—knows the answer to this one.

Other directors who have been mentioned as possible candidates for the Oscars' Best Foreign Language Film category are Jose Javier Reyes ("Sukob," "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo"), Jose Wilson Harris ("Bahay Kubo," "Ang Tanging Ina"), Olivia Lamasan ("Milan," "Dekada '70"), Joel Lamangan ("Hubog," "Sa Kuko ng Agila"), Jeffrey Jeturian ("Kubrador," "Tribu"), Chito Roño ("Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo," "Crying Ladies"), Mario O'Hara ("Tatarin," "Bayan Ko"), Ishmael Bernal ("Himala," "Nunal sa Tubig"), Lino Brocka ("Maynila sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag," "Insiang"), Eddie Romero ("Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?"—now submitted October 1982, when the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), the local counterpart of the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Ampas), was formed), Gerardo de Leon ("Biyaya ng Lupa," "Huwag Mong Salingin sa Sikat ang Araw"), Gerry de Leon ("Daigdig ng Mga Api," "Ang Kuba ng Quiapo"

Children's tale is 'going bananas'

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

GERONIMO Ms. prize-winning story is inspired by the "rooting" trait.

THE BANANA is a common fruit, especially in Mindanao, where the rich soil, constant rain and occasional typhoons make it abundant. The fruit is carefully harvested, washed, boxed and shipped on boats and other vehicles.

This fruit, which is shaped like small, big lips, serves as the inspiration of fictional Prinz's pups Geronimo, author of "A Bear, A Banana and A Smile," one of 30 winning children's stories turned into a 24-page illustrated book by success sponsor/publisher, Gig and the Amazing Ganggayano Foundation Inc. (GAIPI), founded by Marissa Ocs, in

(HOLDEN'S 11

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Underutilized actors deserve their share of the spotlight

By Nestor U. Torre

INDIE MOVIES and TV drama series are being produced to such numbers these days that the industry is running out of talents who haven't gotten overexposed on the big-and-small screens.

That's why some talent scouts and casting directors have asked us for suggestions about good but relatively underutilized actors to cast in their productions. Always happy to oblige, some of our suggestions to choose from:

Vivian Velez. She used to be a really popular sexy star and eventually became a good actress in a number of dramatic productions. But, it's been years since she's been given a good role in mainstream productions.

However, we've been fortunate to catch Vivian's sizzling performance in a number of productions shot and screened at the Maribor Diaz-Abaya Film Institute in Antipolo, Rizal, and we can share that the same mastery Vivian is a true talent just waiting to be rediscovered.

Shiro Sy-Quia. She used to be a really popular sexy star and eventually became a good actress in a number of dramatic productions. But, it's been years since she's been given a good role in mainstream productions.

LOVELY. Alessandra's grit and grace.

However, we've been fortunate to catch Vivian's sizzling performance in a number of productions shot and screened at the Maribor Diaz-Abaya Film Institute in Antipolo, Rizal, and we can share that the same mastery Vivian is a true talent just waiting to be rediscovered.

Shiro Sy-Quia. She used to be a really popular sexy star and eventually became a good actress in a number of dramatic productions. But, it's been years since she's been given a good role in mainstream productions

SATURDAY Special

2 Fil-Ams–Hudgens, Scherzinger–star in 'Rent'

SCHERZINGER AND HUDGENS. Teresa Maureen and Mimi, respectively, in acclaimed stage musical.

LOS ANGELES—Two Filipino-American performers, Vanessa Hudgens and Nicole Scherzinger, star in a Neil Patrick Harris-directed production of "Rent" this weekend (Aug. 6-8) at LA's famed summer venue, Hollywood Bowl.

The staging of the Tony Award-winning show catches many firsts: It will be the first time that Hudgens and Nicole, who will play Mimi and Maureen, respectively, are working together in a stage musical. It's also Hudgens's first "Rent" experience, as she is looking forward to it.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rayben V. Nepudres

Maureen's boyfriend, Jim Ellison, is married for her. Zoe also told us that Maureen is doing all those "crowd gigs," doing her role in "Slasher Prom," the eagerly awaited action-fantasy movie of "300" director, Zack Snyder.

For the ensemble Neil, who played Mark in a 1997 US tour of "Rent," the limited three-night production is his debut as the director of a large-scale musical.

* * *

Godinez lends voice to novel's Pinay character

We can't wait to read Mona Simpson's "My Hollywood," a novel set in Los Angeles about Daira, an American composer married to a TV sitcom writer, and her Filipina nanny, Lola.

From what we've read in reviews and articles about the book, we think there's a movie to be made in the story of star-struck women and their (un)beloved lives. The 50-year-old Lola takes care of Daira's son, William, so she can send money back home to her five children (husband Bongbong is managed from here).

One of Mona's novels, "Anywhere But Here," was turned into a 1999 film, with Susan Sarandon and Natalie Portman. Some of the early reviews of "My Hollywood" are good, with *USA Today* declaring that it is "a beautifully wrought novel." *Publishers Weekly* commented, "Funny, smart, and filled with razor-sharp observations about life and parenthood, Simpson's latest is well worth the wait."

Blogger-actress Rowena Godinez, who's based in LA, had the privilege of reading the part of Lola in an event held while Mona was still working on "My Hollywood" (its working title was "Come").

We asked Rowena to share-us-a-read how she got involved with Mona's much-awaited novel—her first in 10 years: "It was almost surreal how it happened. A good friend, screen legend Geraldine Chaplin, was in town and I was in LA and pulled me aside. She told me about this famous author who was writing a new book that included a Filipina among the main characters. She later said that a readers' theater group was looking for an actress to read a few pages of the book. Especially since I would be good for the part—and that I was 'age-appropriate.' I frowned—did that mean 'old'? Mind you, I hadn't been onstage doing theater in years at the time! I didn't even know if I had become stale and rusty, but I was intrigued, so I said, 'Sure.' Nothing happened until...

"I was at a print store almost a month later, and my cell phone rang. It was Gelsey Bell Goldberg, the founder of WorldTheatre, a prestigious readers' theater group in LA, NY and London. Famous actors and actresses have worked with her to bring life to many books by reading specific parts of chapters. And, Gelsey was on the phone talking to me! To make a long story short, she said, 'I like your speaking voice, and I can already tell that you'll do

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SUN CELLULAR

DAY IN, NIGHT OUT

Bibsy, Elvira launch their new 'babies'

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME TWO years ago, Bibsy Carballo confided to us that she was planning to write a book on Filipino menus in silverware. Her reasoned for to actualize her project, pointing out that there was a felt need for analytical publications which go beyond the usual "fun read" nowadays.

The movies and TV are too seriously influenced and patent to be given merely lip or gossip service by the momentary titillation of the members of show biz's premier gallery.

Late last month, two full years later, Bibsy finally unveiled the fruits of her long and involved labors at the CCE's copy of the "ABC" launch of her completed book, "Filipino Silverware Up Close," published by itself.

Publications

It was one of the best-attended book launches we've had the pleasure of attending, good positive, that the morning—and evening—public turnout in retail stores, many more, publications that take local movies seriously.

Of late, we've also had the great pleasure of reading theater film icon and National Artist Ildefonso Santos-Avellana's beautiful and insightful "The Drama of It," recollections of her lifelong artistic collaboration with husband Bert, a National Artist in his own right.

And, we're looking forward to finally reading Jorge Arago's long-awaited book on his friend Bertud. — Keep 'em coming, folks!

Bibsy's book launch was attended by some of the best and the brightest—Eppie Kendrick, National Artist Eddie Romero, plus a veritable Who's Who of other top screen personalities and personages—including Jun Urbano, aka Mr. Hands Gun Mongolia, in vivid "metrosexual" garb.

Comedy persona

Incidentally, aside from his tongue-in-cheek comedy persona, Jun represented his late, great dad, National Artist Manuel Conde, at the glittering event.

What's up next for Bibsy after the triumph that her first book has turned out to be? In our view her next book should be about the stars she's gotten to know better than most, as their defender, mentor and manager—Dawn Zulueta, Gretchen Barretto, Rinky Davao, plus a host of other genuine talents she's boosted (when they needed it most).

As a character and history of "glamour" talents, Bibsy has helped keep many artists' careers afloat. They would have gone under without her selfless help and encouragement if they know who they are—and they are legion).

Unique restaurant

Another special event we attended last month was the "soft" launch of La Mitre, the new and unique restaurant put up by Elvira Go in front of San Agustin Church in Intramuros. The restaurant is open to everyone, but has specifically been put up to nourish the stomachs and please the palates of the members of the clergy who feel are souls, especially bishops, archbishops and cardinals!

Church circle insiders know that Elvira has spent her life generously supporting spiritual causes and missions, like ministering Bible-reading by way of the National Bible Quiz competition, as well as producing and hosting the "Power to Unite with Divine" shows on TV and radio, in addition to her "Stadi-TV" and other advocacies.

But, Elvira as a restaurateur? That is new—but, the stretch is explained by her desire for the clergy which is amply reflected by her restaurant's menus and many of its seemingly "personal" dishes.

Bishop Farougi's Breakfast, Bishop Tory's Spanish Omelet with Tomato, Bishop Bruno's Asparagus Soup, Bishop Bancod's Chimichurri, Lolo Deniz's Pasta, Archbishop Arturo Spaghetti, Francis Sedrez' Tinolang Manok, Bishop Bigaco's Sandwich—etc.!

Taking stock of life

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bonnevie

JUST AS people pay bill attention to their president's State of the Nation address, we can also come up with our personal reports and take stock of our lives. We must constantly assess our situation: What have we done with our lives so far? Where are we now, and where are we headed? Some guidelines:

1. Do not measure progress by the amount of your bank accounts. They're just temporary assets. Look inside your heart, where your true wealth lies.

Blessings

2. Don't compare your situation with that of your neighbor's. Appreciate what you have and be grateful for your unique blessings.

3. See your true faults and shortcomings. Ask forgiveness from people you've offended—and you shall likewise be forgiven.

4. Realize the higher spiritual goal of life instead of wallowing in the superficial and mundane.

5. Move on and let go of past hurts and vulnerability attachments. It's good to close some chapters in your life and start new ones. Getting stuck in a portion of your journey may deter you from achieving higher levels of existence.

6. Don't be afraid to seek and live with the truth. It's better to be wise than ignorant!

Lucy's health...

From page A1

a hard corporate client of Sue Gellder for the past three years. Their iconic tie-up allows both Sue and Digital researchers to pay their bills through any of DBC's 800 outlets nationwide. Visit www.suegellder.com.ph.

Bowl O' Rice at Brothers Burger

Brothers Burger now offers the Bowl O'Rice, specially made for Filipinos, in six variants—Roast Beef, Beef Salpicao, Brothers Burger, Fish Fingers, Shredded Chicken and Hot Bites, plus 12 oz iced tea or lemonade drink and a sweet dessert. Visit www.facebook.com/pages/Brothers-Burger/.

Free seminars

Free seminars on various aspects of the coconut industry, from production to marketing, will be held in connection with the Ninth Coconut Festival at SM Megamall, B Wing 3, Megamall, Mandaluyong City, from Aug. 12 to 15. Some coco products from Coconut Shoppe, like virgin vinegar and coco chili, will also be introduced.

Star Movies

Star Movies' August highlights include Michael Crichton's "Year of the Dragon" (Aug. 12), Craig Lucas' "Reckless American" (Aug. 13), John Mellencamp's "Ain't Dead" and the Farrelly brothers' "There's Something About Mary"

At ANC

Popular sports enthusiast and broadcaster, Paolo Abrera, is the newest host to join

ABRERA. Column: "Mano Mano @ ANC."

the "Usapang Sports" at ANC" team to deliver the most significant news and information to jumpstart viewers' days.

Conversely, former "Morning Girl" host TJ Manotoc has joined Gay Ondis Ledesma in "The Noon Show," ANC's daily

primetime conversation. Bringing in his expertise in technology and social media, Manotoc will also serve as a segment featuring new gadgets that can be used to promote positive change, plus inspiring stories about social entrepreneurs and community heroes.

NGC inspires people to 'live curious'

National Geographic Channel's "Live Curious" campaign, all about exploration, pioneering and questioning, as exemplified by "Par-tee Investigators" (Mondays-Fridays, 7 p.m.), bearing documentaries that are nonsensical, animated computer graphics and super realnesses to make unique experiences and encounters realistic and as thrilling as possible.

'Signs'

Joel Lamangan's latest film, "Signos," is bound for various international film festivals, like the Brussels and Montreal film fests. The movie takes viewers back to the First Quarter storm of the '70s, recalling the gripping stories of six young persons caught in the tempest of the era. Stars include DonDon Puzilla, Tirso Cruz III, Melvin Ignacio and Dawn Zulueta.

On Aug. 20, a Filmfest-Premiere will be held at Robinsons Galleria Cinemas 5, and on Sept. 11, it will be shown for the benefit of the United Pure Whiteness Association.

'In the Big Band Mood'

On Aug. 14, Richard Poon and The Company perform in a "big band" concert at the New World Hotel, Makati City, with proceeds going to World Vision Philippines. Cocktails are at 6 p.m., while the show begins at 8. Call 893-9999 or 891-6813 ext. 2477.

'Entourage'

Jeanne Ivol "Entourage" visits television this at 9:30 p.m. on Aug. 8 on ETC. The hit comedy series takes a look at the life of a hot young actor (played by Adrian Grenier) and his entourage in Hollywood.

Movies on TV

Today on HBO at 9:30 p.m., "Clueless." Tomorrow at 8:20 p.m., "The Regrets Movie." Aug 9 at 11:10 a.m., "Michael Jackson's This is It." Aug. 10 at 9 a.m., "Nanking Hill." Aug. 11 at 2:20 p.m., "Peninsula from the Edge." Aug. 14 at 10:50 a.m., "I'm Not Rappaport." Aug. 15 at 7 p.m., "Glory."

On Cinemax today at noon, "10,000 B.C." Tomorrow at 7 p.m., "Once Upon A Time in the West." Aug. 9 at 3:20 p.m., "The Lodger." Aug. 10 at noon, "The Hero(ic) Age." Aug. 11 at 4 p.m., "Battle of Britain." Aug. 13 at noon, "Cairo." Aug. 15 at 9:45 a.m., "The Bridges at Remagen."

'The Princess and the Red Carp'

Michael Williams directs Theater down South's children's musical, "The Princess and the Red Carp," on Aug. 22 and 29, and Sept. 5, 12 and 19 at Ivan Sr. Life Theatre, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. Call 849-6386.

Flynn, Oberon were Tinseltown's Tasmanian devils

By Bobo Cervantes

LITTLE was known of Tasmania, a little island off New Zealand, until two beautiful people from that isle were put on the celluloid by Hollywood producers.

OBERON. Ethnic looks.

The Errol Flynn and Edmund Purdom of their era.

The lady was undeterred one of the all-time swooon lovebird faces, while the gentleman was reported as to be the Tasmanian devil incarnate, the very least, he was certainly a rogue.

Kitty Oberon, as, used the film capital for London. A petite, dark-eyed beauty she was married by twenty well-heeled suitors before she finally gave her heart to producer Alexander Korda, who got her to act in British movies before she conquered Hollywood.

Chemistry

Oberon was noted for her exotic looks and a love romance, loved alongside the youthful Laurence Olivier in "Wuthering Heights." The duo is considered one of cinema's most romantic pairs, although it is said that the two hated each other during the shooting of the film—their on-screen chemistry didn't exist at all. "Cut" was called.

Oberon exhibited wrinkled strains on the American devil when robbed the wrong way.

FLYNN. Reckless daredevil.

The Errol the Oberon obviously did. He reckoned in his career as "pockmarked," ironically, "Wuthering Heights" is considered one of the most romantic products of the Golden Age of Hollywood.

Soon after Oberon retired from a colorful film career, it was alleged that her hellraised, who was her constant companion —was her mother!

Practical jokes

Errol Flynn was always a problem on screen, but was reputedly a rogue and rocker-lover throughout his off camera reign.

He was allegedly involved in prohibited drugs, underage sex parties and playing practical jokes at the expense of his costars.

It is said that the actor would have "French kisses" on his hapless, constant costar, Olivia de Havilland, despite the likes of Bob's rules on such matters. He professed his love for her, but she never gave his advances any encouragement.

It's also said that, while courting opposite Bette Davis in "Elizabeth and Elizabeth," naughty Errol would purposely cut onions before their romantic scenes. Ironically, the impetuous actress [illegible]—but Flynn enjoyed "humanizing" the drama queen!

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THE LAST AIRBENDER (3D) - 9:15
INCEPTION (3D) - 9:15
TEKKEN - 9:15
CHILDE - 9:15

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1 THE LAST AIRBENDER
2 FURRY VENGEANCE
3 SALT
4 HATING KAPATID

STARMILLS
1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 SALT
3 CINCO
4 INCEPTION
5 HATING KAPATID
6 FURRY VENGEANCE

IMUS
1 THE LAST AIRBENDER
2 FURRY VENGEANCE
3 SALT
4 HATING KAPATID

ANGELES
1 SALT
2 HATING KAPATID
3 THE NOT TOO TIME MACHINE
4 THE LAST AIRBENDER

TACLOBAN
1 A HIGHMARE ON ELM STREET (SALT)
2 HATING KAPATID
3 SALT

DUMAGUETE
1 SALT
2 HATING KAPATID
3 ROBIN HOOD

BACOLOD
1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 CINCO
3 SALT
4 FURRY VENGEANCE
5 INCEPTION
6 HATING KAPATID

ILOILO
1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 HATING KAPATID
3 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
4 SALT
5 CINCO
6 LET ME IN (Let Me In)

GENERAL
1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 HATING KAPATID
3 PREDATORS
4 SALT

ILOCOS NORTE
1 SALT
2 ROBINHOOD
3 PREDATORS

NOW SHOWING

Game on!

By Rico P Asilo

HOSING OUR soccer trip to Indonesia, we were pleasantly surprised to see Jakarta's megalopolis dawning "Tekken," Dwight H. Little's big-screen version of the popular fighting game series, two months before its Philippine release.

We were surprised as even more was the fact that Little's action flick turned out to be more entertaining and involving than 1994's bland "Street Fighter" and final P.O.S. Anderson's laughable "Resident Evil" were unequivocal video game-to-film action flicks whose success circumstances didn't live up to the hope that preceded them.

Carnevale

"Tekken" takes place in 2039, after a global war forever changed the world in minute and disastrous—and a time when even oil lies or a piece of orange is considered an expensive commodity. Countries are no longer run by governments, but by corporations, among them Mishima Zaibatsu, run by Heihachi Mishima (Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa) and his megalomaniac son, Kazuya (Jon Anthony Dale).

People temporarily forget about their disaster, dystopian reality by watching the Iron Fist Tournament, or Tekken, where fierce fighters from around the world battle one another until a victor is declared. But, the ambitious Kazuya wants a bigger piece of his father's power and influence.

Enter teenage street fighter, Jin Kazama (Jon Foo), a rebel who finds a cause after his mother, Jun (Tamlyn Tomita)—who turns out to be a former Tekken fighter—dies at the hands of Michima's men.

To get to Heihachi to avenge his mother's death, Jin enters the tournament and ends up entrancing the audience's hearts—and Kazuya's jealousy!

The stakes get higher for Jin after he learns about his real "relationship" to Heihachi and Kazuya, who demonstrate to the teenage fighter that blood isn't always thicker than water!

Internal, ingenious questions though; it is fun to kick with both fists and Brazilian capoeira fighter, Christie Monteiro, portrayed by the lovely Kelly Overstreet! Why is there so much animosity between Kazuya and his father?

Loose ends

The film isn't dramatically provocative, and it sadly fails to capture the desperate, post-apocalyptic feel of a world gone mad. But, if it's action you want, it's what you'll get. Some wonderful back stories may not sit well with Tekken's faithful, however.

While there are loose ends that need tying up, we found the screenplay cohesive and involving enough, further enhanced by the new kid on the block presence of the fresh-faced Foo, the relishing portrayal of Overton, and the arresting turns of Tomita and Tagawa.

Tekken's more action-game's most popular characters get some screen time: Marshall Law, Hwoarang, Steve Fox, Miguel Rojo, Eddy Gordo, Nina and Anna Williams, Sergei Dragunov, Wesdonton and the half-robot, Julian Perry Cury (Daniel).

Underneath all there are so many interesting fighters (Hwoarang, Ling Xiaoyu, Panda, Lars Alexandersson, Lei Wulong, etc.) in the Tekken universe that it's impossible to include all of them in the movie.

If you're disappointed about their absence, just head back to the arcade and engage them in a duel. Game on!

Far hydrants, work 'itik' and other boob-tube booboos

By Nestor U. Torre

RIGHT PEOPLE really want to know from the first-ten month—I guess that's you.

Guest: What do you want to know?

Host: Are you or are you not exclusively dating Janine of female star?

Guest: A, sports fan! Well, I can't say yes about it or deny against it.

(Whisp., ge-say-say ka pa-dyan…)

Appointee

Host: Do you think (name of presidential appointee) is right for being chosen as the head of your bureau?

Guest: I think so. He's a lawyer, so that job is tailor-made for him!

(Lawyer? Teller? Make up your mind.)

***

Host: Why did this (ire spread so quickly and to so wide an area?

Guest: Party, I think, because there were no fire hydrants.

(Ha? Couldn't they use the ones that were near?)

***

Host: Why did you leave the show?

Guest: Because they did not follow what we agreed on. So, I just left—right there and there! (Right there—and where?)

Rainy season

Host: What is your advice for students during this rainy season?

Guest: Make sure you bring all your umbrellas and kapote in case of insecure downpour!

(If not—uh-huh!—power you!)

***

Host: Are you sure the criminal escaped after the crime?

Guest: Very sure. After the crime, right away, others' mamis yung area all over the podgad.

(Ang! All his bobitas area—his chirt?)

***

Host: How did you feel when you lost the race?

Guest: Like a fly being fed to the slaughter!

(That bad, huh?)

Sad experience

Host: What did you learn from this sad experience?

Guest: Huwaaaaa ko pong mag-stop. Inaggalaw ay magpa-pronounced.

(Huh? —Hey, whatever, good for you.)

***

Host: When and how can we watch your special broadcast?

Guest: This Monday. It will be broadcasted live.

(Oh, "broadcast" has to pass muna.)

***

Host: As a very successful champion in your own right, what advice can you give to our host for the international beauty contest coming up?

Guest: Only one: Be confidence in yourself!

(…Bagsakan!)

Host: What can we do to have better health?

Guest: He should all pay more attention for our health by having more exercises!

(Ha ha pa!)

Consumers

Host: How should consumers protect themselves when buying a product?

Guest: Make sure to always remember to read the label.

(Why "always"? —What are you talking about?)

***

Host: What is the grace accorded to post-typhoon? Let's log rattle this month!

Guest: The winner will go on a shopping fest!

(…Where?)

***

Host: Why are you so successful? What do you think are the factors?

Guest: A lot of prayer, a lot of preparations, a lot of connections—and a very good support cast!

(And, with a good "mouth talk" comes—ha ha!)

Mercedes Cabral's career is in full bloom

By Rica Arevalo

AT A TEENAGER, life wasn't perfect for Mercedes Cabral, who went to Game in Brilliance Mendoza's "Scribe" and "Humay" and Laurice Guillen's movie "Ganito na Kalaw." Financial problems hounded her family so the young Fine Arts student had to quit school.

Me orphans, "My brother and I went to ER The tuition was OK, but we couldn't afford everything else. I got angry because I couldn't understand why I had to quit school."

To make ends meet, Cabral, the only girl among three children, went into modeling and penned indie flicks, which he says auditioned for the role of Coco Martin's paramour in "Scribe," and the rest is history. "So Scribe," Arroy who does manage the baggage any parents to."

Why did she go frontally nude? She replies, "I wanted to make some noise, and I knew direct Dante wouldn't exploit me. After that…I was typecast as a 'nudist.' Pero kahawan ang effect. Marahil na ganoon ang tingin ng iba sa akin, kasi iisa pa pa along kayong gawin."

In full force

During the screening of "Ganap na Kalaw," her family came in full force. What does his father, Ronda, feel about her career? She confesses, "It was the first time I invited them to see my film on the big screen. Akala kong nasabihan sila or ano her movies be.

"My father could have told me to stop, and I would have obeyed him. But, when he saw 'Ganap na Kalaw,' he really liked it!"

What was it like being directed by Mendoza? "Nakakakaba! He's different when we chill: we to drink and when we work. We don't know when the story calling my name. There was one guy who came to me and gave me a flower. When I returned to Cannes for 'Kinatay,' I told pa rin ako ng mga photogra phers—nakakatuwa!"

Three days, Cabral's acting career is in full bloom. Her Cannes exposure led her to work with Korean filmmaker Park Chan-Wook ("Old Boy"), in "Thirst," the year's Jury Prize winner.

CABRAL, flies a featured role in Park Chan-Wook's Cannes-winning Korean drama.

Amazing mind

How does Park work with actors? She beams, "He mind a amazing! He knows how to get you involved in the story."

After shooting "Ganap na Kalaw," Cabral said she got depressed. She explains, "The role was hard emotionally. I couldn't let go. I cried for a week! I went out with my friends to shake it off."

Any regrets in her career choices? He finally answers, "None. I learn from my mistakes!"

Lucy's health partner

WIFE, MOTHER, TV host and now congresswoman of Ormoc, Leyte…have days Lucy Torres-Gomez do it? How does she manage? Stay energized? Look beautiful looking at the mirrors in all those respon-

sibilities? Lucy acknowledges:

"While women my age are past the necessities of youth, we are also faced with the realities of aging…and one of those realities is having a slower metabolism."

So, despite her busy schedule, Lucy makes it a point never to miss taking her vitamins and supplements. In fact, her hectic schedule has prompted her to take the multivitamin supplement, Immunoll.

"Immune is my health partner," she shares. "I find it convenient because you just take it daily and

MONTAGE

stop in benefits for your optimum health and looks." Immune is the only vitamin supplement that contains the powerful combination of CoQ10 and rice ginseng…Korean ROC ginseng and Siberian ginseng. CoQ10 is an antioxidant that protects the body against damage by free radicals, while ginseng helps revitalize the body and increase its resistance to colds.

In addition, Immune® has no lactose, which protects cells from oxidation; pantothenic acid, which helps to cell regeneration and chromium, which aids in the digestion of carbohydrates and fats.

Let your music take you to Macau for free

The Macau Government Tourist Office-Philippines has launched the Macau Songwriting Competition for university students in three blocks. Participants have to compose the music and write the lyrics to a song about Macau for a chance to visit Asia's most exciting tourist destination, for free! The top two will be professionally arranged, sung by a home singer and recorded.

Deadline is at 5 p.m. on Sept. 30. For competition rules, visit www.macausongwriting.com.

Massimo presents Manta Place reunion concert

At 8 p.m. on Aug. 13, Massimo brings Johnny Lou, Butch Nikz Rodriguez, DJ Sunny and DJ Ouch, otherwise known as Manta Place, for their first reunion concert after 11 years, at Esplanade near the Mall Mall of Asia.

The show coincides with the

GOMEZ, flaunts benefits of optimum health and youthfulness.

2010 DBB World DJ Championships (Philippine finals). The reunion concert is presented by Massimo, with Sun Mig Strong for as supporters. Call 911-0888.

Sun Cellular-ABC tie-up

Sun Cellular sing hart up an limited, and GMC sing Ant's ng pedals, have formalized their partnership, giving subscribers added convenience. ABC has been

LMCT-03

BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF PUREGOLD CUMAO

2 Fil-Ams…

From page G1

janitor to the sofa: Would you like to be a part of the readers' group, which I named 'Friends with Mona Simpson?' Would you be available to read the part of Lola?"

"Oh dear. All I could think of was, I didn't know who Mona Simpson was, and I was too embarrassed to admit it. As if reading my mind, Gretting said that Mona had one of her books, Anywhere But Here," made into a film that starred Susan Sarandon and Natalie Portman. I saw that film! Gretting then said, "You'll be reading from Mona's upcoming book project, 'Lola.' Me? Oh my gosh! She asked me? Well, the author will be present to listen to you."

"It was days passed, then I received the book number by e-mail. Soon after, I was in Coleridge's beautiful house. She cooked dinner, and after we cleaned it down, she asked me to read for her. I was super nervous, but she said I did very well. I reassured that the moment I read the pages she had sent me, I knew who this character was. Her sister was an Filipina that I really thought that perhaps Mona had some Filipina in her. Mona understood the idiosyncrasies of Lola. She was acquainted with the Filipino's spoken cadences, and it was easy for me to capture and portray the character.

"I arrived at the venue and met the other actors. I have to include here that it was a thrill to meet Dolores Mehlwing who was so humble and approachable. Anyway, I was the last to read. Mona was in the audience. I was relieved to hear laughter and no tears from the audience. At the end, I met Mona, who thanked me for giving voice to Lola. She gave me her card and asked if I'd be available in case she needed to talk to me. We are kidding? Of course, I thought. I was gentle in my response to her, but my heart was pounding loudly! I hadn't heard from her. No one really heard much about 'Gains' again, and I prayed that Mona hadn't abandoned the book.

"A few days ago, almost four years from that reading, as the front page of the LA Times' entertainment section was the article that announced Mona's next book, 'My Hollywood.' She didn't abandon it. She worked on the same story, modified it and incorporated the presence of the character, Lola, a Filipina nanny in Pacific Palisades, whose life of sacrifice and service is pivotal in the main character in the book, and whom I'm very proud to have been able to portray!"

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